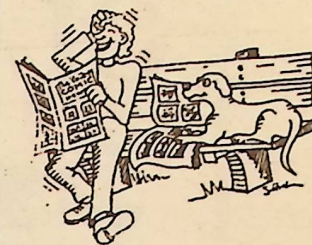


The Valley COMIC N · E · W · S



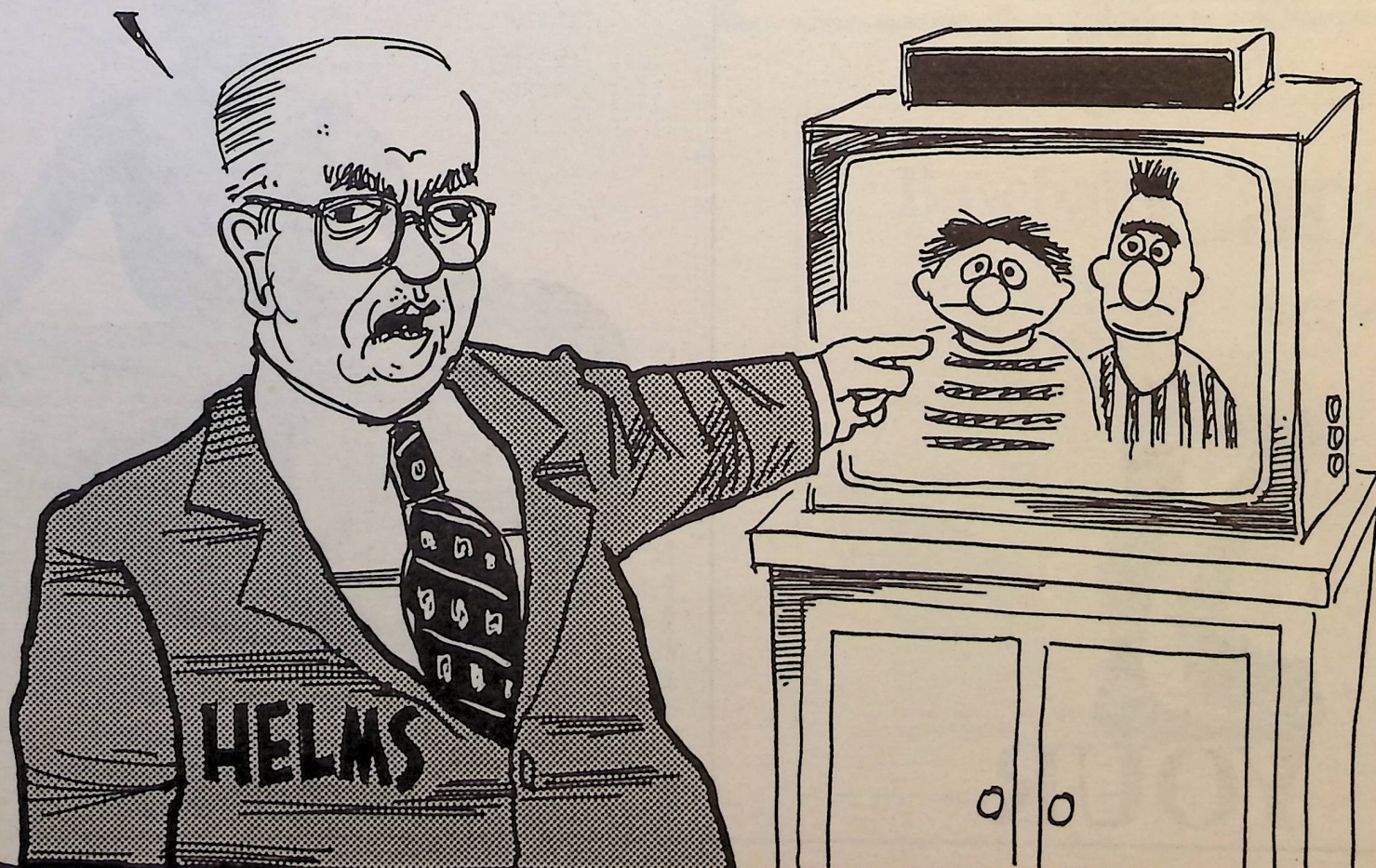
ISSUE # 60
April 2, 1992

FREE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS, VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, THE BRASS AND FERN,
EARTHWEEK, IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD AT 15,
THIS MODERN WORLD, LOCAL HEROES

STORIES: LIKE A RUBBER BALL
HOT & COLD RUNNING CANDIDATES
FOOTING THE BILL
THINGS ARE TOUGH ALL OVER
CHALLENGER DISASTER
WAY DOWN SOUTH IN JO-BURG

PUBLIC TELEVISION
IS PROMOTING THE LEFT-WING,
HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE!



CLOTHES



THAT FIT



25 CENTRAL

Downstairs at Thornes
150 Main Street, Northampton, MA 413-586-8017



YOUR



LIFE

Photo: Jennifer Burdick

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

At least now I know how I'm gonna make my fortune. See, these people in Maine are trying to sell their house. It's appraised at \$344,000; it's on a 1-acre lot overlooking a salt marsh and bay; and it's about a mile by water from President Bush's vacation home! All I have to do is explain in 250 words why I would like to live by the water in Kennebunkport. And when my entry is judged the best for its "style, content, originality and wit," the place is mine! Here's the winning entry:

Who *wouldn't* want to live a short jog from our First Family? I'd be totally psyched to pull on the old cross-trainers and pound out a few miles with Poppy. There's so much an active president could learn from jogging with an ordinary citizen. I'd go, "Mr. Prez, me and your sons have a lot in common, being as we're about the same age, and *none of us went to Vietnam!* And isn't it neat how Bill Clinton's gettin' beat up for not goin', but nobody badmouths *your boys* about it? Hee hee."

Next I'd say, "Plus, it's just not fair what they're sayin' about you and this Halcion. Sure, you want people to Say No To Drugs, but you're talkin' about drugs that make people become *insane sex addicts!* Your Halcion there -- why, that just makes you *feel* better. Can't count a *feel-good* drug as somethin' you've gotta say No to!"

Then I'd tell him, "Who *cares* if America doesn't have a family policy? You never *said* you were gonna be the *family president!* So what if Sweden says mothers can get ten weeks of paid time off when they have a baby? American women are *much* tougher than that! When was the last time any *Swedish* women won an Olympic hundred-meter dash?"

With all those government types around him, a president *needs* to talk to a regular person now and then. I'm as patriotic as anybody. That's why I'd like to move to Kennebunkport. The president *needs* me.

Pretty American essay, huh? The only catch is the people who own the house are asking everybody who writes an essay to send 99 dollars along with it. That way, if they get 3,500 entries, they'll get what they want for their house, and I'll get a three-bedroom house for 99 bucks!

Except I haven't got 99 bucks. I've barely got 99 cents.

But I *know* there are people out there who *do* have 99 simoleons...far-sighted people...people unafraid to take a tiny risk...people who know a sure thing when they see it. So my generous offer to the investing public is that if anybody sends me \$99, or if two people send me \$45 each, or eleven people send me \$9...whatever, when I win the house I'll sell it for as much as I can squeeze the market for, and then divvy up the proceeds evenly between me and every one of those visionary characters who had the faith to invest in me when I was just a little guy reaching for the stars.

Just *do* it, reading public. My fortune is your fortune. It's the American way.

The Valley Comic News

P.O.Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061 413-586-2274

Publisher • Izzy Gesell

Founder & Co-Publisher • David Hooks

Managing Editor • Mike Chrisman

Advertising Director • Silvana Gravini

Distribution • Nancy Girard

Menial Slave • Siena Chrisman

P.T. Bridgeport • Hank Ryan

Copying • Paradise Copies

Image Scanning • Studio e

Printing • The Recorder • Greenfield, MA.

©1992 The Valley Comic News

No part may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

BUY COMIC NEWS SUBSCRIPTIONS!

The gift that keeps on giving...22 issues yearly!

Third Class - \$20.00 (please allow two to three weeks delivery)

First Class - \$36.00 (please allow two to three days delivery)

To upgrade any existing subscription from third class to first class mail, call 413-586-2274 for information.

Send this coupon and check or money order to:

VALLEY COMIC NEWS

PO Box 515

Northampton, Mass. 01061

Check here for
Third Class (\$20)

☐

Check here for
First Class (\$36)

☐

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

IMPORTS • HANDCRAFTS • FOLKART • ARTWEAR • GIFTS

WORLDS APART

THORNES • 150 MAIN ST • NORTHAMPTON • MA • 586-5067

ALL KINDS OF BEADS

• SILK and LEATHER CORD •
make your own
* JEWELRY *

HAYMARKET

BOOKSTORE

NORTHAMPTON

DOWN

CRACKERBARREL ALLEY



CAFE


USED BOOKS

STRONG COFFEE

EDIBLE MASTERPIECES

Baseball Caps

from
\$6.95

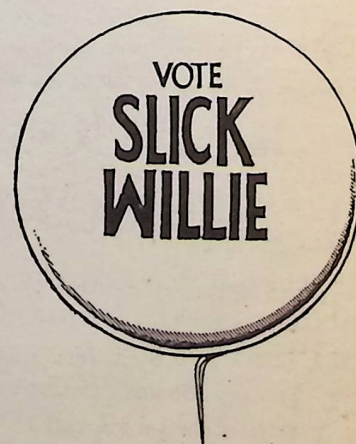
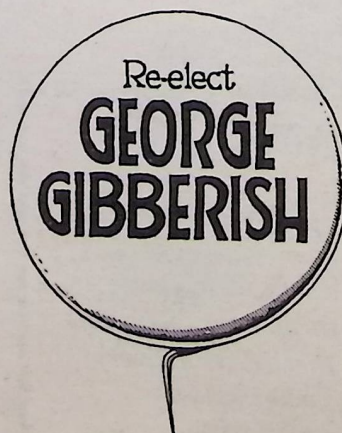
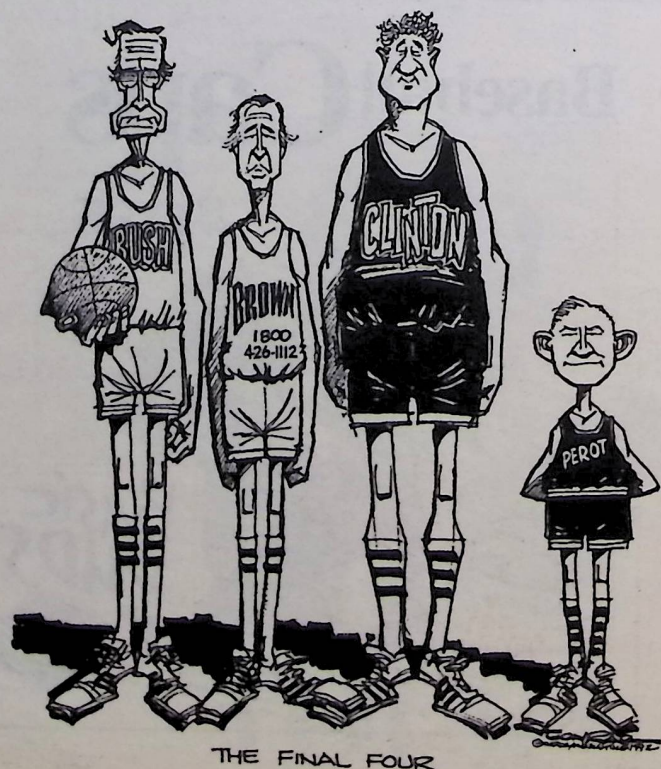
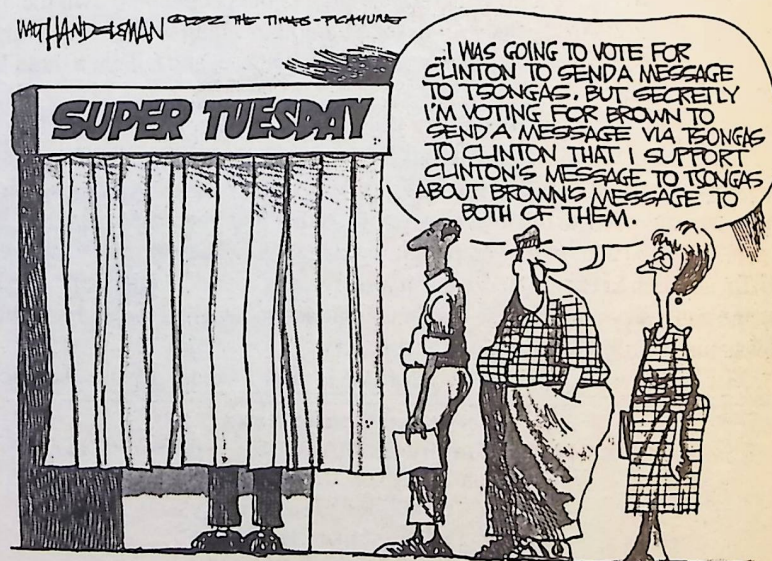
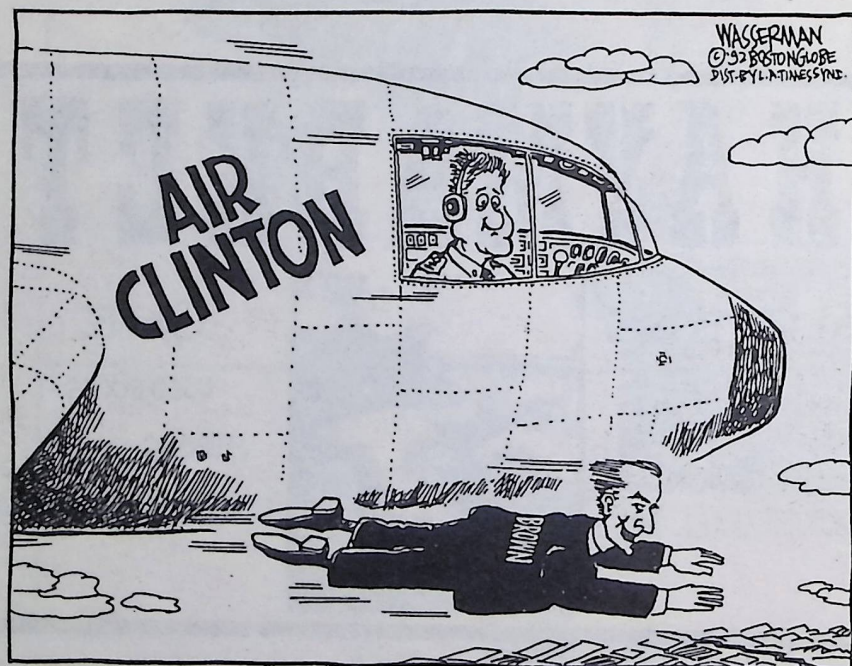
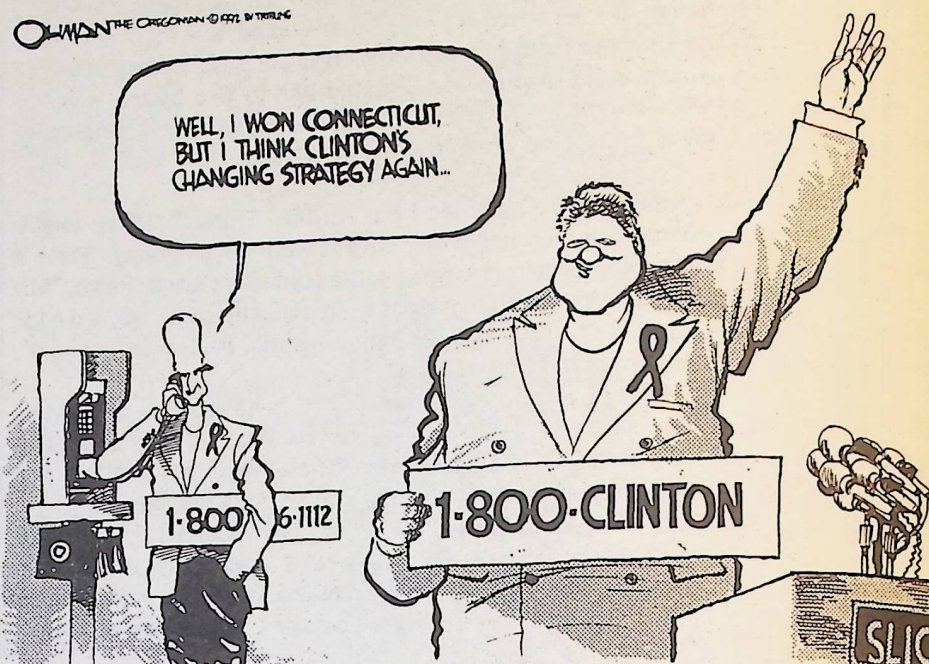


12 solid colors • team hats • novelty caps
Adjustable size

Basic
DUDS
at Faces

northampton
main st. • 7 days

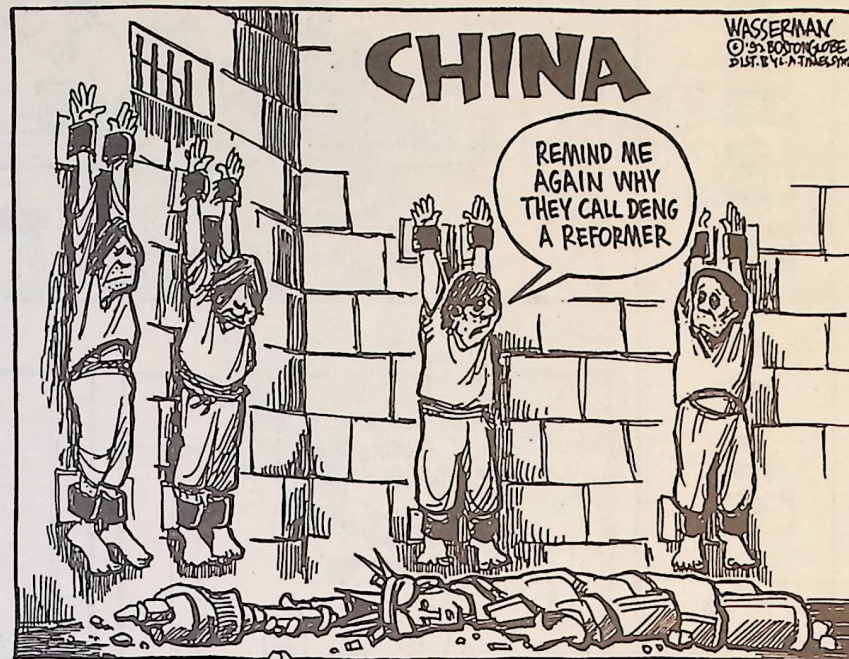
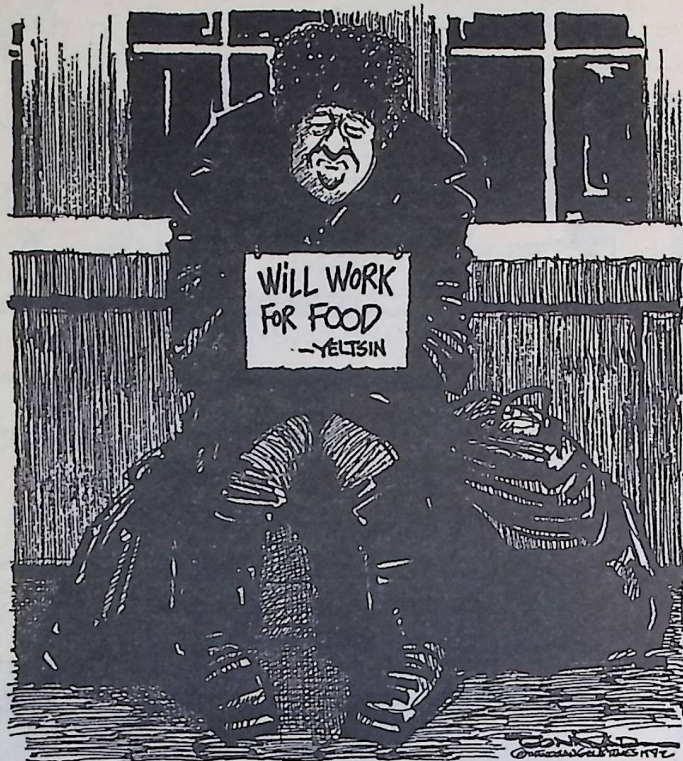
HOT & COLD RUNNING CANDIDATES



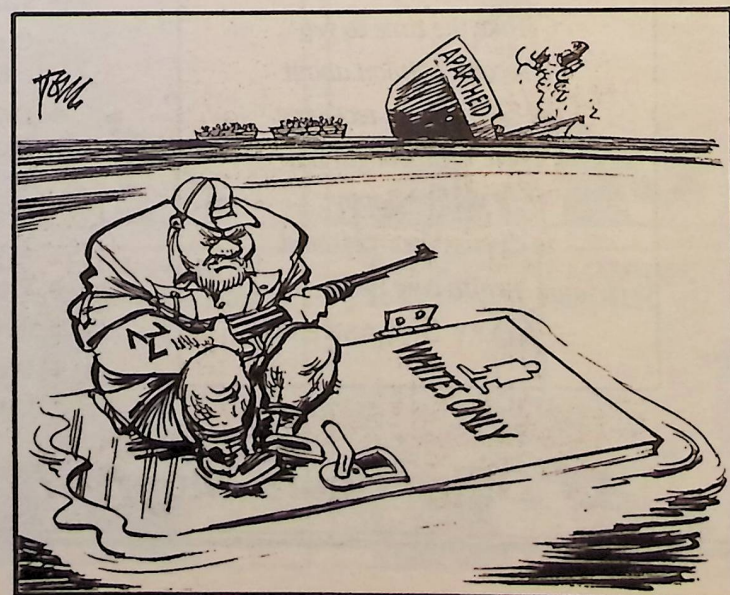
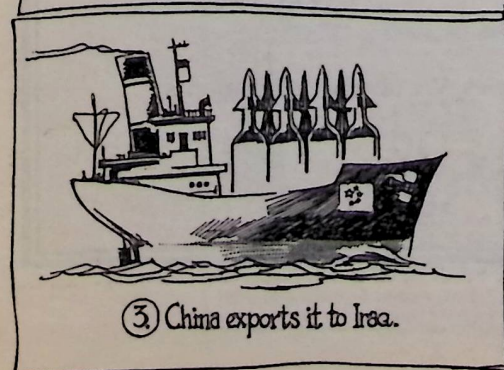
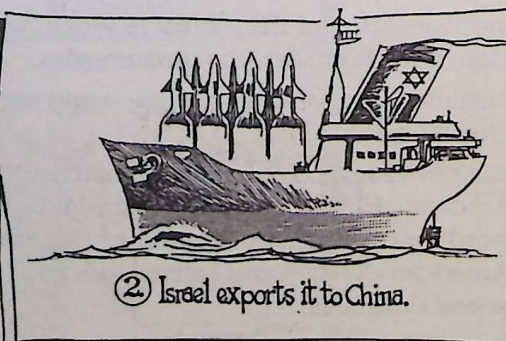
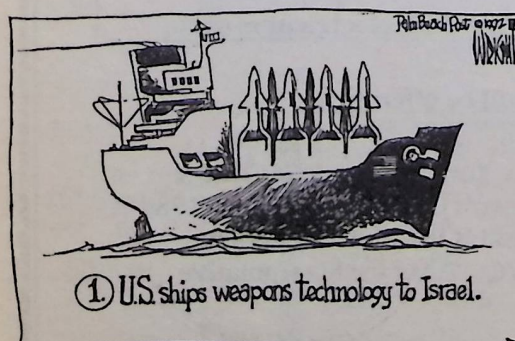
CAMPAIGN '92

WIKEN © 1992 Tolson Beach Bat

THINGS ARE TOUGH ALL OVER



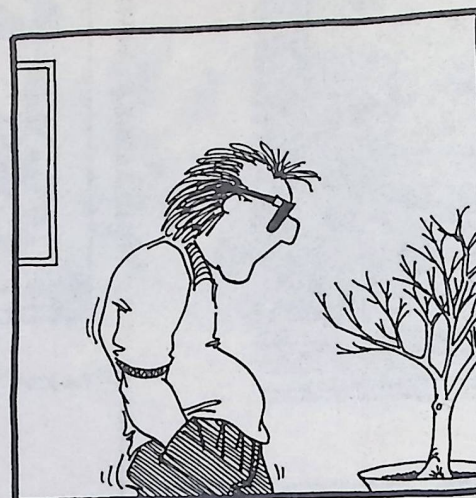
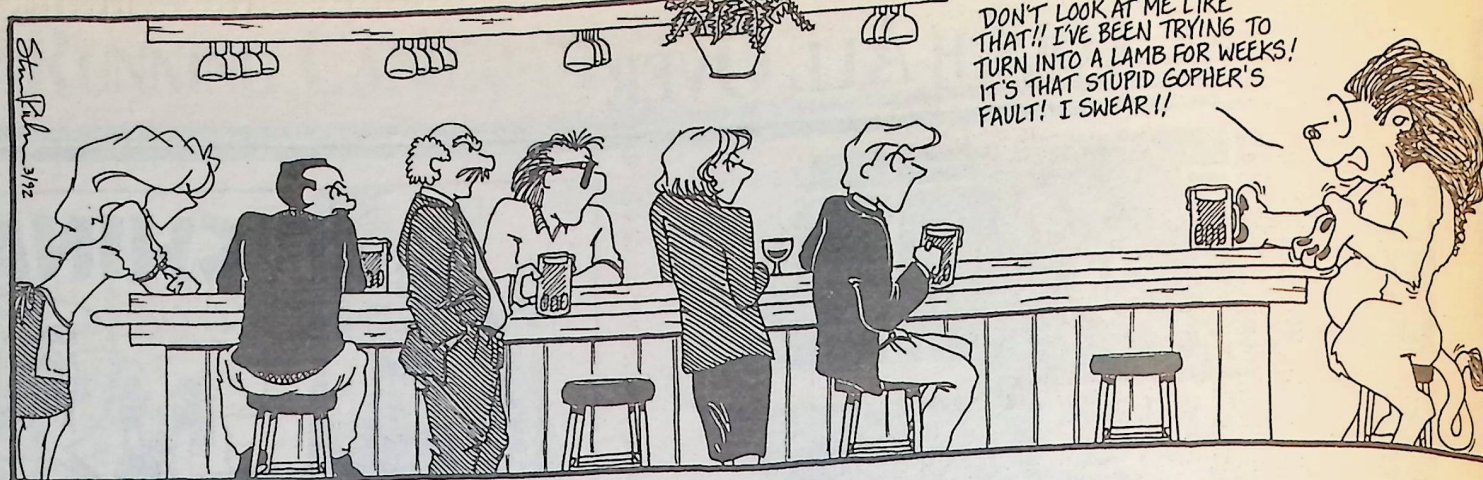
IN SEARCH OF BRAZILIAN STREET CHILDREN



TOM TROUW
Amsterdam
NETHERLANDS

THE BRASS & FERN

By Steve Riehm



Dr. Gary S. Lasneski

Chiropractic Physician
256-1321

Located at the corner of Route 9 and University Drive

190 University Drive • Amherst, MA

Family Health Care

*As a service
to the community
our office offers a
**Free consultation
at all times.***

*Take the time to get
a second opinion about
the care you are receiving.*

There is no obligation.

*I will be happy
to discuss your personal
health care needs.*

— GARY S. LASNESKI

- ❖ Our office provides a full range of Chiropractic techniques and services including: traditional osseous adjustment • moderate and light force treatments.
- ❖ Dr. Lasneski is especially skilled in: extremity manipulations (TMJ, shoulder, elbow, wrist, hips knee, ankle).
- ❖ Applied kinesiology and contact reflex analysis is also offered.
- ❖ Individualized exercise/rehabilitation programs and nutritional support
- ❖ There is the availability of deep muscle work, ultrasound, electrical muscle stimulation, traction heat physiotherapies.
- ❖ Our fee schedule is available upon request and we will be offering a family health plan.
- ❖ Dr. Lasneski's awards received upon graduation New York Chiropractic College include: Academic Honors, Academic Excellence, Dean's Certificate of Merit, 1989 Dean's Award for Chiropractic Technique. Dr Lasneski is listed in 1989 Who's Who for American Colleges and Universities and NYCC Tutor for Manipulative Technique and Core Sciences.
- ❖ Plenty of free, convenient parking
- ❖ Serving Hampshire County since 1990
- ❖ We provide treatment for work, sports and auto injuries. We accept assignments from most insurances.

Office Hours: Mon 3-7, Tues 9-2, Thurs 9-7, Fri 3-7, Sat 10-1

Valley Aikido



SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY RATES

3 Months for \$75

or

1 Month for \$30

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

(413) 586-0355

131 King Street (in the Armory Bldg.)
Northampton, MA 01060



J-RICH
CLOTHING FOR MEN

191 N. Pleasant St., Amherst • 253-2013
22 Masonic St., Northampton • 586-6336
Open 7 days • Thursday nights in Northampton



Growth & transformation through healing

JOANNE O'NEIL
Homeopathic Practitioner
& Psychotherapist

Amherst, MA
413-256-8958

RED, HOT 'n BLUES
Live Blues

All you can
Eat

BBQ
Buffet

Every Tuesday Night 5pm

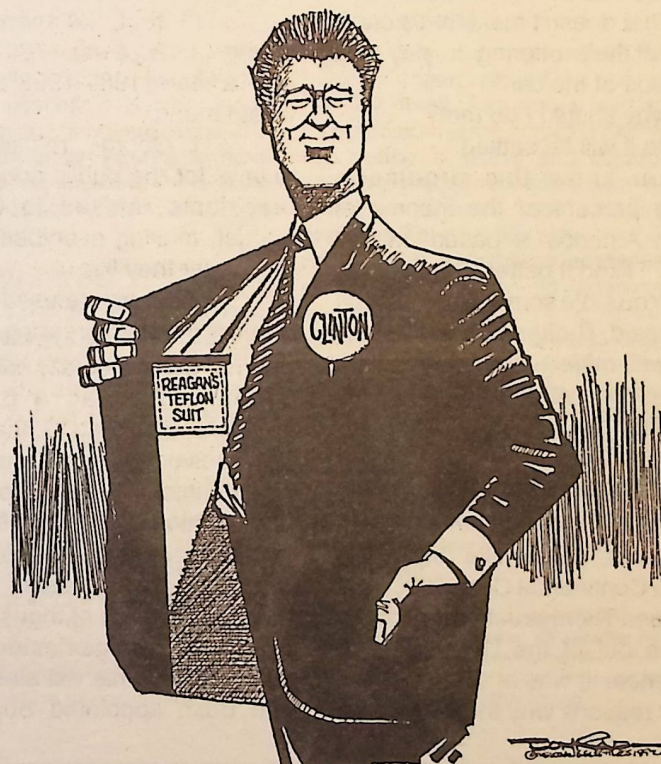
Featuring Hickory smoked Ribs 'n'
Chicken, Homemade Salads, Snacks,
Sandwiches, Kids Menu and pigs galore

**ACME
BAR-B-Q**

206 Russell St. Rte 9 Hadley
586-5668
Takeout & Catering

Hrs: Sun-Thurs 4-10pm • Fri & Sat 11:30am-10pm
Closed Monday

FOOTING THE BILL



JOE BOB BRIGGS

One of the best lines in the Declaration of Independence got edited out by wimps. There are always a few of these guys around, the guys who keep saying, "Don't say it in such a *mean* way! Maybe if we're *niceto* King George, he'll see how wrong he is and we'll settle this thing peacefully."

You know the type. They're the same people who believe that *every* argument should be settled by shaking hands.

"You don't wanna *sue* the man. Maybe you should just have a meeting with him. Let's be civilized about it."

"The guy stole my car."

"I know, but that was a long time ago."

"I don't *care* if it was a long time ago. My car is still *gone*."

"But you have a new car now, so it's not so bad as it once was."

"That doesn't make it *his* car."

"But he's offering to pay you *half* the value of the car."

"Why should I do that?"

"So it will be settled."

You know this argument. Ninety-five percent of the income of lawyers in America is based on this argument. I liked it better when people just said, "You stole something," and the other guy said, "I did not," or "I didn't steal it, it was mine." And then you put out the evidence and the judge either picks the first guy or the second guy. You *win* or you *lose*.

But most people don't wanna win or lose. They wanna compromise. And there were people like that in the days of the Continental Congress. And so they forced Thomas Jefferson to take a sentence out of the Declaration of Independence. It was at the end of his long list of reasons why the king was a

jerk, and it kind of summed up the whole deal:

"Future ages will scarcely believe that the hardness of one man adventured, within the short compass of twelve years only, to lay a foundation so broad & so undisguised for tyranny over a people fostered & fixed in principles of freedom."

In other words, Jefferson is amazed that, not only did George *do* all this stuff, but he did all of it in *just twelve* years.

Well, Tom, wherever you are, if you can hear me, here's what *actually* happened in "future ages."

Twelve years is *nothing* to us. You can beat us up for *thirty* years, and we'll keep bumbling along like dolts. As long as nobody takes our stereo away, we're happy to let the brain-damaged scum merchants rule.

In fact, let's compare King George's 12 years, 1764-1776, to *our* last 12 years, 1980-1992, and you'll see what I mean.

1. George "refused his assent to laws for the public good." Our own presidents refused to balance the budget, making everybody get poorer the longer they live.

2. George refused to "pass laws of immediate and pressing importance." But he didn't actually *kill* very many people. We had a public-health epidemic, called AIDS, that could have been solved by now if we had simply poured into it the kind of money we poured into polio in the fifties. But our president refused to consider it "of immediate and pressing importance." And so hundreds of thousands died.

3. George "made our judges dependent on his will alone." Reagan and Bush appointed Supreme Court

justices based solely on what they believed the court should do, breaking a 200-year-old tradition of appointing the most distinguished jurist, regardless of that person's political opinions.

4. George "erected a multitude of new offices by a self-assumed power and sent hither swarms of new officers to harass our people and eat out their substance." Ever seen the office buildings full of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.? "Swarms" is right. The Democrats may have created them, but the Republicans made them even more powerful by paying so little attention that each federal agency is now a monarchy of its own.

5. George "kept among us in times of peace standing armies and ships of war without the consent of our legislatures." This is such a time-honored practice among recent presidents that the amazing thing is that Bush even felt the need to *ask* for a declaration of war. Not that it would have mattered if Congress refused. Bush was even a little hacked off that the Congress insisted on *debating* the issue before they approved a war.

6. George "imposed taxes on us without our consent." Hardy har har.

The only things we *haven't* suffered in the last 12 years are legislatures being dissolved (it's easier to control them), the burning of towns (some of them, like Detroit, will burn themselves), and the use of the army to actually open fire on innocent civilians (although even that has been considered, as a form of riot control).

The "plunder" of King George takes a different form these days. By refusing to control the sleazeballs on Wall Street, guys like Michael Milken and Charles Keating do the plundering,

and everybody with a bank account or an IRA suffers. Most people don't *know* they're suffering, though, and so the king gets away with it.

Aren't you tired of this? How is it possible to have this many *wimps* all holding political office at the same time? Where do these guys come from?

Think of it this way. Those guys who put their names on the Declaration of Independence were called "founding fathers."

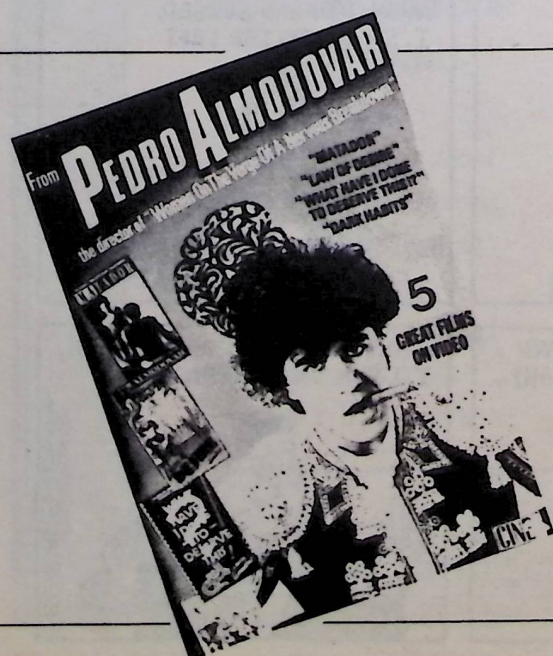
Can you look at *any* of the presidential candidates, in either party, and honestly say that you'd want *any* of them to be your own father?

See what I mean?

Maybe 12 *more* years will mean something.

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous "We Are the Weird" newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, P.O. Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's Fax line is always open: 214-368-2310.

COPYRIGHT 1992 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



Over
3500 titles
foreign
and
domestic

PLEASANT
THEATER
VIDEO


29 Pleasant Street, Northampton • 584-6762

**Be a television
programmer!
Watch what you
want to watch,
when you want
to watch it!
We have what
you want!**

EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman


El Niño

 The abnormally warm ocean water phenomenon El Niño has caused further climatic disruptions in various locations around the world. Torrential rains in coastal Peru, which are common during the height of an El Niño episode, have recently caused widespread destruction of crops and homes. Inundations from nearly-incessant downpours destroyed 90 percent of the public and private infrastructure in Tumbes department, 800 miles northwest of Lima, according to civil defense officials.


The same warm current is being blamed for a searing heat wave that sent temperatures soaring to over 100 degrees from Costa Rica to Honduras. Tegucigalpa experienced its worst hailstorm in 20 years after a record afternoon high temperature of 102 degrees.

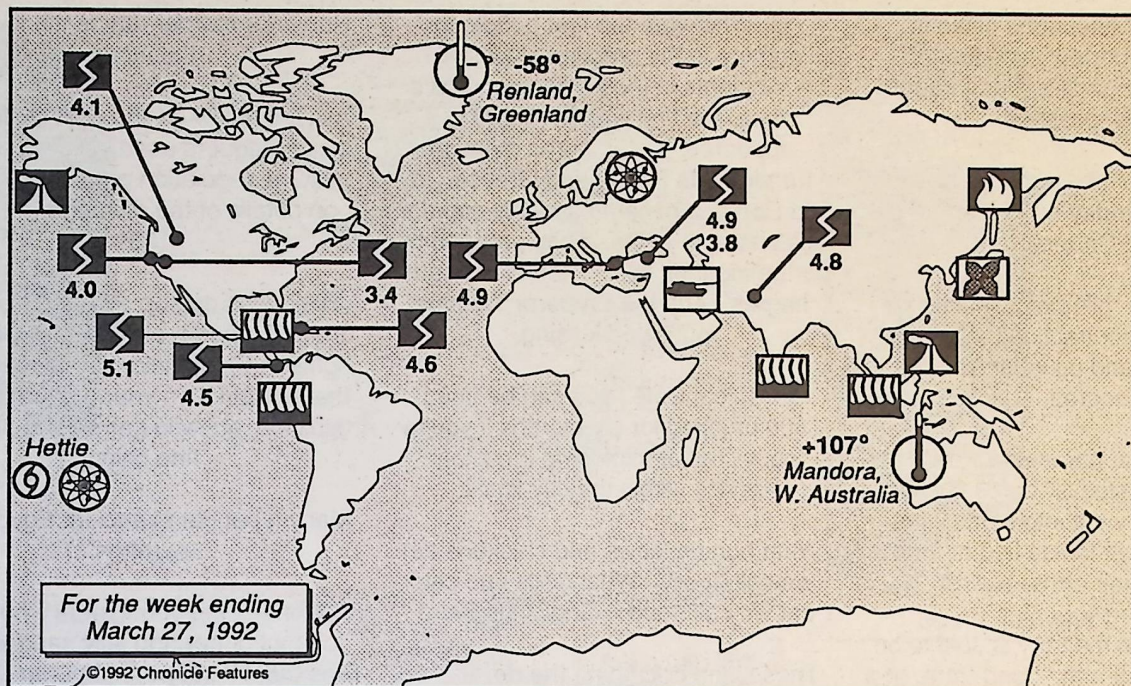
Government meteorologists say that a severe drought which has plagued the Philippines and Sri Lanka in recent months, and unseasonably hot and dry weather in Malaysia, are the result of atmospheric anomalies caused by El Niño.

Earthquakes


 Two strong quakes rocked eight Turkish provinces only hours after an earlier tremor struck hard-hit eastern Erzincan where people rushed into the streets in panic. In Greece, a series of tremors beneath the seabed caused panic among the residents on the island of Milo. Quakes were also felt in northern Pakistan, eastern Cuba, Guatemala, Panama, northern California, Montana, and western Nevada.

Wildfires


 A forest fire caused a huge explosion when it spread to an ammunition depot of the Russian Pacific fleet near Vladivostok. Firemen prevented flames from reaching another depot where large shells were stored.




Volcanoes

 Seismologists detected several high-frequency tremors from both Taal and Pinatubo volcanoes in the Philippines, all within a 24-hour period. Since water temperatures and levels in the main crater lake at Taal showed no significant changes, residents in the area were not evacuated as during the violent activity of mid-February. The quakes beneath Pinatubo were mostly unfelt in the area, but people living within a 6-mile radius of the mountain were warned of the possibility of further mud flows and volcanic explosions. Akutan Volcano in the Aleutian Islands erupted with a 2-mile-high plume of ash and steam.


Tropical Storm

 Weak tropical cyclone Hettie formed over the extreme southern waters of French Polynesia with maximum winds of only 45 miles per hour.

War Litter


 Torrential rains uncovered thousands of Iraqi mines planted in Kuwait during the Gulf War. Many were exposed in areas previously thought to have been cleared, including some in the Andalus residential area just outside Kuwait City.

Nuclear News

 Small amounts of radioactive gas were released into the atmosphere near St. Petersburg after a malfunction forced a Russian nuclear power to be shut down. The incident was officially classified as "not serious".

The ship Rainbow Warrior, owned by Greenpeace, sailed to just off the French nuclear testing site at Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific. The group says it plans to set up a "peace camp" on the atoll, and to take samples to verify claims by France that there has been no radioactive leakage or contamination.

Floral Front

 Weather forecasters in Japan tracked the movement of an annual front as it spread northward across a nation celebrating a festive and colorful holiday period. The leading edge of the cherry blossom front is plotted each spring on television and in newspapers, adding a modern sense of urgency to the age-old Japanese springtime custom of lying in the park, contemplating flowers, singing, and drinking rice wine. Maps like those used to plot storms show the front's progress for those planning "hanami" or flower-watching parties. This year's early blossoming has caused problems for festival organizers who set their dates long in advance according to traditional calculations.

Additional Sources: Japanese Meteorological Agency, Meteo France, Fiji Weather Bureau at Nandi, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

**You'll Feel
Great
After Soaking
in a
Hot Tub at**



Open till 1 a.m. 7 days a week
For reservations • 586-6843
33 West St. • Northampton



191 N. Pleasant St., Northampton • 253-2013 • 22 Masonic St., Northampton • 586-6336
Open 7 days • Thursday nights in Northampton

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L.M. Boyd

Stringers of telephone cable in Germany reportedly use trained dachshunds to snake lines through narrow passages.

According to an Irish publication, there lives in Dublin today a 14-year old girl named Carmel Korn.

Q. What's the "pilomotor reaction"?
A. That scalp contraction that makes your hair stand up when you're scared.

Am now told that phrase "to wear your heart on your sleeve" dates back to knights who went into battle with scarves of their ladies tied around their arms.

Your short-term memory is said to be best at about 9 a.m. Long-term, at about 3 p.m. That's what the specialists report. Why memory varies this way throughout the day remains unexplained.

Many of the faithful in the Middle Ages believed God closed down Hell every Sabbath to give tormented souls a chance to catch their breath.

Q. Who were the first people to engage in the practice of kissing?
A. Ancients in India. At least, that's where the first written record of it appeared. Later, some mention turned up in Persia and Greece. In old Rome, it became a highly popular pastime of the elite. They prepped by perfuming their lips. Then along came herpes. And the Emperor Tiberius outlawed kissing.

In Chico, Calif., you can be fined \$500 or jailed for six months if you're convicted of exploding a nuclear device within the city limits.

What horses, cows and chickens eat we call "feed." What dogs and cats eat we call "food." English is weird.

Those who document the devices of fortune tellers report that one Kansas City entrepreneur recounts (for money) the previous lives of his clients' teddy bears.

If you insist the commanding general is always female, you're probably talking about army ants.

Norway's murder rate is the lowest in the world.

Ask the fellow on the next stool when major leaguers used yellow baseballs in some regulation games. If he's up on details of the diamond, he'll say 1939.

Historians dug up a buried trash pit under the porch of Abraham Lincoln's home in Springfield, Ill. To learn only that Lincoln as a young attorney took medicine, ate wild game, and dined on fine china.

Many a pet cat in ancient Egypt wore earrings.

None of the youngsters who like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches likes them if the peanut butter and jelly are mixed before they're spread. A Girl Scout executive told me that.

Q. What were the dying words of artist Pablo Picasso?
A. "Drink to me."

If typical, you had all the brain cells you were ever going to get by the time you were six months old.

When a Roman soldier in Egypt accidentally killed a cat in 80 BC, a mob of infuriated locals executed him.

Those who know all about gulls say the female of the species won't lay eggs unless at least 20 other gulls are nearby to watch her performance.

A "fedora" is a low soft felt hat with its crown creased lengthwise. Highly popular in bygone years. First person to wear such headgear was French actress Sarah Bernhardt. When she performed in Paris in a play by Victorien Sardou. Name of the play: "Fedora."

Add Leonardo inventions: Scissors.

A newborn hare can hop immediately. A newborn rabbit can't do that. It can't even walk.

In west central Brazil live the Nambiguara — natives to the region. Their language is theirs alone. It contains no numbers.

Wild geese can catch the flu.

Sale
★ 20 to 50% off selected ★
Clothing





Earrings Candles India Print Bedspreads






Shorts Dresses Happy B'day Cards






Mugs Chinese Shoes Posters

Great Gifts & Cards
THE MERCANTILE
Northampton-18 Center St.
Amherst-Carriage Shops
Sun 12-5
Daily 10-6



★ ★ ★
Mexican Food
that Mexicans
would want to eat!
★ ★ ★

La Veracruzana 44 Main St. 586-7181
Northampton



OPTIONS
ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTS

17 Strong Ave, Northampton
584-0010
come see us at the
Whole Health Expo

FLICKS

Academy of Music	584-8435
Amherst Cinema	253-5426
Calvin	584-2310
Garden Theater	774-4881
Greenfield Cinemas	772-0298
Hampshire Mall	584-7550
Mountain Farms	584-9153
Pleasant Street	586-0935
Tower Theaters	533-2663

VIEWS OF THE WORLD



PETERSON
THE SUN
Vancouver
CANADA



LANGER
HUMOR
Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA



KAL
THE ECONOMIST
London
ENGLAND

SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRACY



PANCHO
LE MONDE
Paris
FRANCE



FEDLER
THE STAR
Johannesburg
SOUTH AFRICA



MIKE
YEDIOT AHARONOT
Tel Aviv
ISRAEL

"Some of it has to stick."



I CAN stand here waiting for my
TAX Refund or...Hmmm... Its TUESDAY..
TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY= 2 FOR 1 @ VIDEO-TO-GO...
Hmmm...THEREFORE I can catch up on
my FELLINI AND wait for my tax refund...

VIDEO To GO

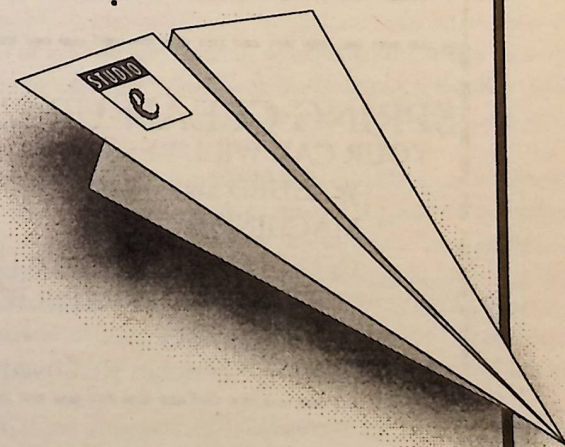
"Where you'll always find something different"

401 Main St., Amherst
256-1509

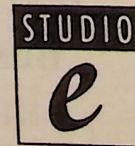


We make ideas fly.

Advertising
Graphic design
Printing



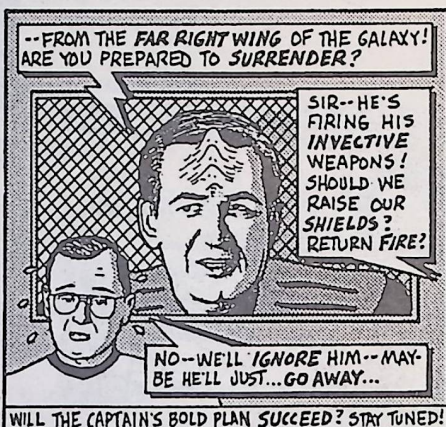
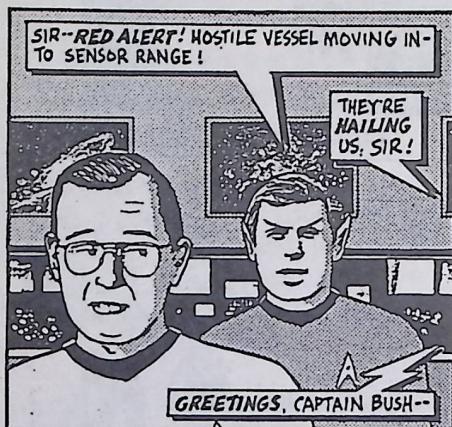
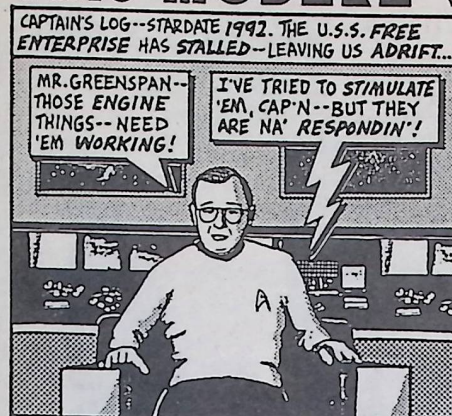
245 MAIN STREET SUITE 203
NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060
413-585-8939



THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 92



THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 92



NOTE TO READERS:

WE HAVE NO MORE SPARKY™ BUTTONS! SORRY...

Open to the Public!

If your car needs:

- ROT HOLES FIXED
- FENDERS REPLACED
- FLOOR BOARDS FIXED
- DENTS REMOVED
- SPOT PAINT WORK
- INTERIOR RECONDITIONING
- EXTERIOR RECONDITIONING

we can make it look car-lot new at an affordable price!

Ask about our convenient "PAY-AS-YOU-GO" PLAN, too

AUTO DEALERS SERVICES

WHOLESALE BODYWORK PRICES

Now you don't have to drive a junk!

Obviously, auto dealers don't pay \$32 per hour to get their used cars fixed.

Now, you won't have to pay inflated retail prices on bodywork either!

FREE

DRIVE-IN ESTIMATE SERVICE

Fridays Only 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
at RICK'S AUTO, 442 Elm St., N'ton

Now thru 5/1/92

Call 527-5589 for your appointment!

(from 5-9 p.m.)

Dealer work welcomed as usual.

SPRING CLEAN-UP SPECIAL only \$89.98 (reg. \$119.00)

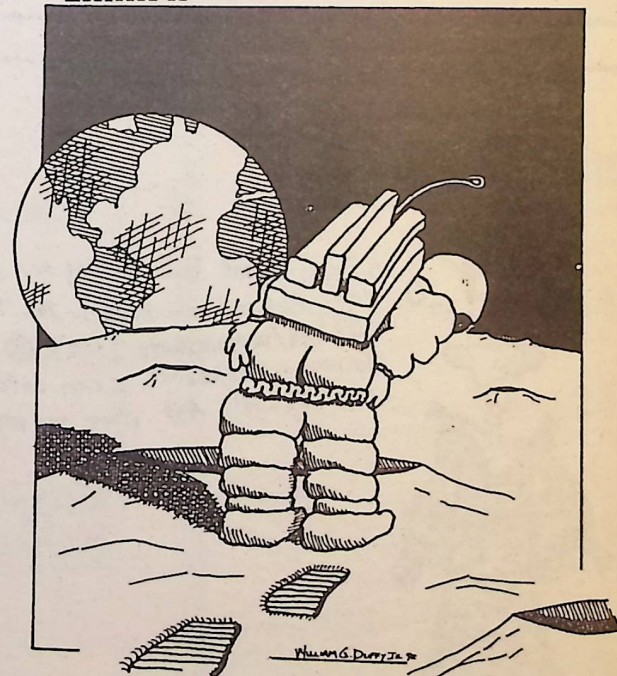
YOUR CAR WILL BE:

- WASHED and WAXED
- MACHINE BUFFED
- INTERIOR RUGS & SEATS SHAMPOOED
- UNDERCOATING APPLIED TO POTENTIAL RUST AREAS (if desired)

-Nicks & Scratches Removed For A Small Extra Charge-

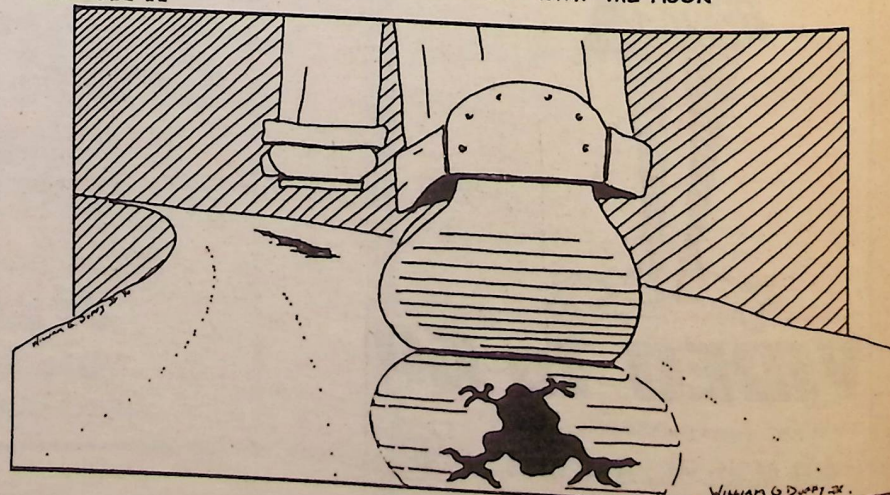
Next time you're in one of our advertisers' businesses...say, "Hey, thanx for being in my favorite paper; I'm of course referring to the Valley Comic News!"

THINK'R



THINK'R

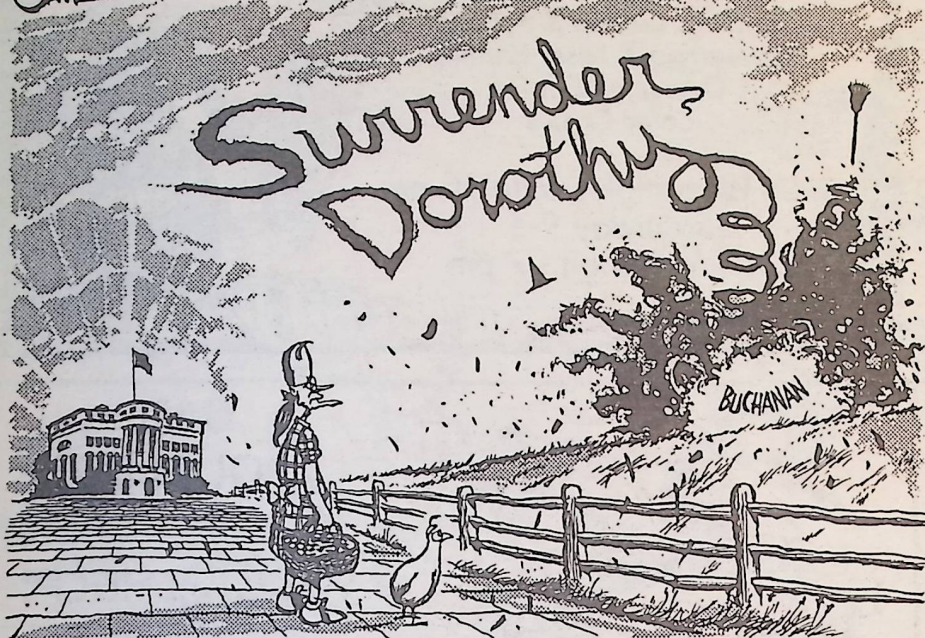
MAN'S OBSESSION WITH THE MOON



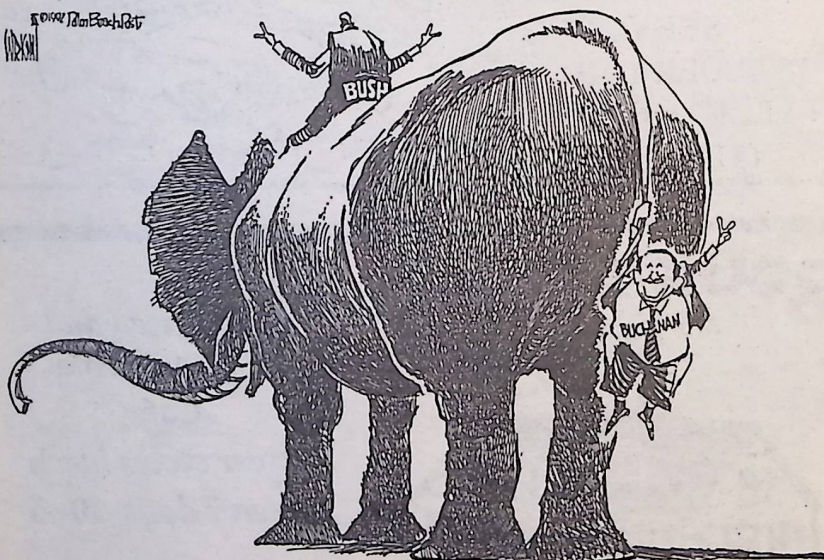
ECOTOURISM
TAKE ONLY PICTURES - LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

CHALLENGER DISASTER

OWEN THE OREGONIAN OFFICIAL TRIBUNE

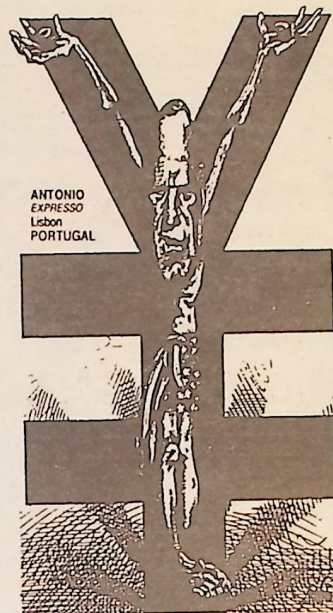


FROM THE BUSH OF BUSH



THE DEVIL AND FAT BUCHANAN

The Valley Cryptic News
by Julie Alger



On my way to UMass the other Friday morning I innocently picked up a *Valley Comic News* to read on the bus. I was in a fine mood: it was payday, end of the week, a pleasant morning. I kicked back and relaxed, caught up on "The Far Side" and chuckled at the international cartoons....until I came to a somber, captionless pen-and-ink drawing from a Lisbon newspaper. There on the page was a suffering George Bush nailed up by his hands and feet to an angular kind of cross. They really know how to blaspheme in Catholic countries, I thought admiringly. Bush's lugubrious face and scrawny limbs were contorted in Gothic agony. He wore a Stars and Stripes loincloth, and smoky rays emanated from the base of the double-barred "cross" as if he were also being burned at the stake. The drawing was powerful, emotional — but what did it mean?

After I arrived at my office and booted up the computer I examined the cartoon again. I still didn't get it, and I began to feel threatened. I prefer to think of myself as Well-Read, Intelligent, Somewhat Sophisticated, in fact as a *Wissie* (an acronym for our times here in the Educated Valley).

Wissies of various ages and styles, from bright undergrads to jaded know-it-alls, began to come into my office. I resisted exposing my ignorance to them, but soon curiosity prevailed. So one by one, I showed the cartoon to everyone I encountered that morning and in the Campus Center at lunchtime. "Explain it to me," I would say. And everyone gave the same sheepish response: "It obviously means *something*. It's very well-drawn, isn't it?" On those two points we all agreed, but by Friday afternoon nobody had figured it out. How obscure could it be? It was a syndicated cartoon, after all!

In desperation I called the *VCN*. I reached Mike Chrisman, The Editor himself, who had selected the cartoon and placed it on the page. My breath quickened; the mystery would now be solved. But no! *Mike didn't get it either!* He said there are so many knowledgeable people in the Valley that he was sure some of them would understand it — and it was very well-drawn. Besides, it fit perfectly in that spot. Made sense to me. And he can't be accused of pushing any specific ideology. I thanked Mike and hung up, but I was too committed to end my quest. Surely the answer was within reach. Maybe it was a Russian cross, or the emblem of some European political party. I'd look it up at home, I thought.

None of my books had the answer, so on Saturday I brought my wrinkled copy of the *VCN* to local *Wissie* headquarters, the reference desk of the Jones Library. The librarian admired the quality of the cartoon ("very well-drawn") and directed me to a shelf of books about symbols. Forty minutes of research turned up only a medieval stonemason's mark faintly resembling the mystery object — close, but no cigar. I stuffed the paper back into my bag and went forth with the librarian's parting words, the same ones everyone else (including Mike Chrisman) had said, "Let me know if you find out." How had I been chosen for this ordeal?

By now I was a terrifying presence on the streets of Amherst. The winter sun advanced my shadow ominously along North Pleasant Street. Acquaintances scattered at my approach for fear I would pull it out of my bag and demand an explanation. Dogs tucked their tails and ran; children clung to parents' legs; Star Trek buffs signaled the Klingon warning "Lohc-jwt-ca!" meaning, "Look out, here comes Julie with that cartoon again!" Villagers, I was sure, were gathering their torches and stakes.

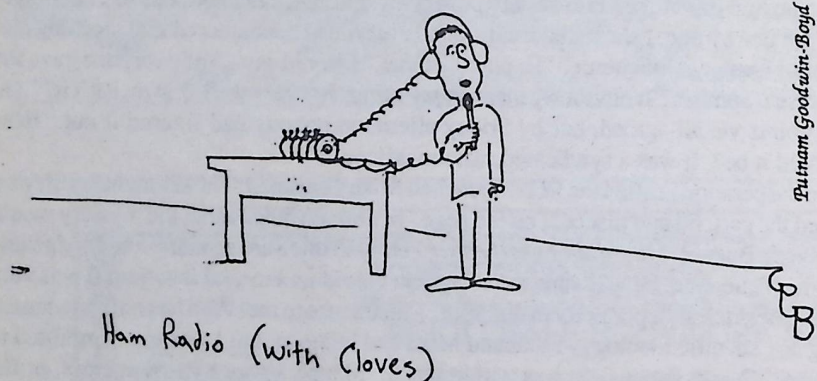
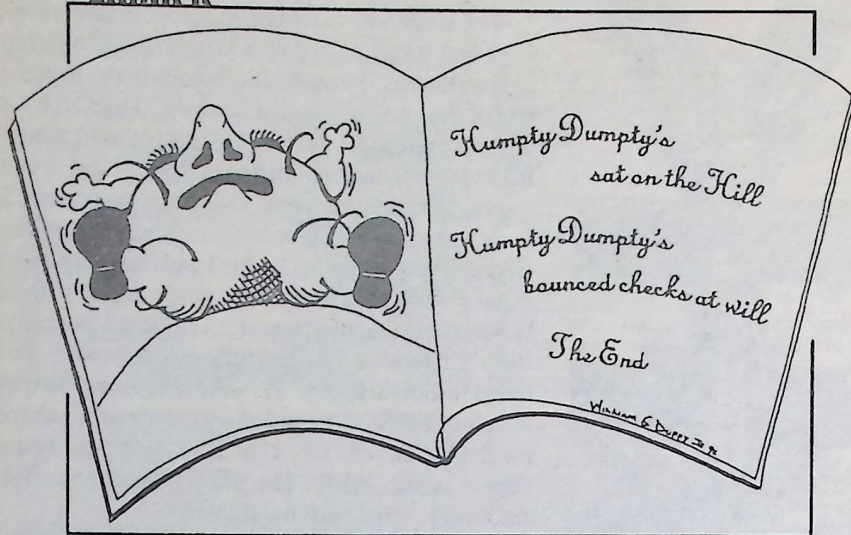
Whew! It was time to go home and recover. I made myself a bland supper, crawled into my oldest pajamas, read some Jane Austen, and drank a cup of Sleepytime tea before turning out the light. In the dark, I chanted my mantra, "It's only a cartoon...only a cartoon..." to clear my mind of George Bush, international relations, the balance of trade, the slipping value of the dollar against the franc and the pound and the — Gasp!! My eyes flew open. Could it be the *yen*? I jumped up, turned on all the lights, rushed to the unabridged dictionary, and there it was: the obvious answer we all could have seen, should be embarrassed *not* to see.

I dragged out my tattered *VCN* one more time and recognized the artist's finishing touch: the rays of the Rising Sun glowing up at the base of the yen/cross. Of course, I told myself, I knew it all the time. I just wanted to see if anyone *else* got it.

But honestly, it was a bad day in *Wissiedom*.

LOCAL HEROES

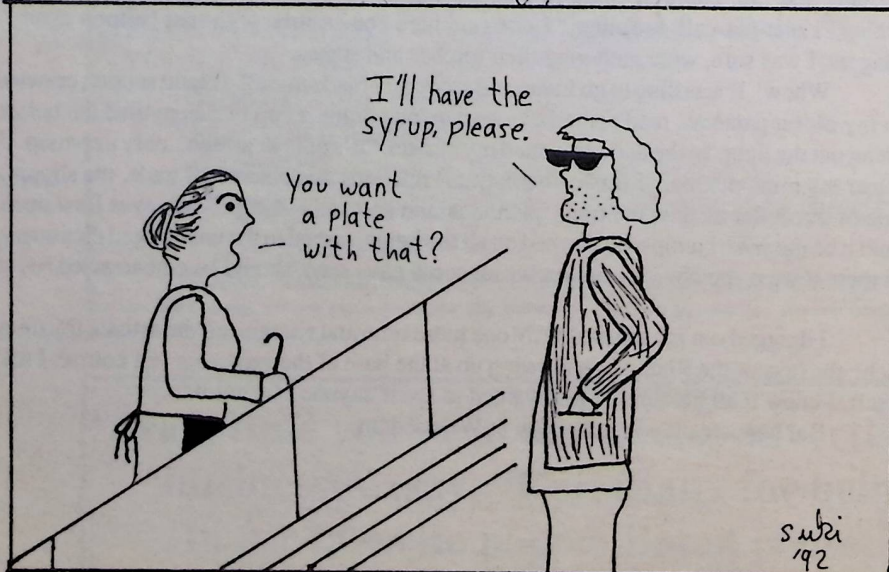
THINK'R



DIARY OF A REBEL

suki litchfield

Wed: Went through the breakfast line backwards again.
I think the lady's getting pissed.



PARADISE COPIES

So many copies, so little time...

3¢ Overnight Bulk Rates
Binding, Cutting & Folding
Typesetting & Laser Printing
Oversized Copies
Color Copies

OPEN Weeknights until 10 pm
Saturday 9-5
Sunday Noon - 7 pm

30 Crafts Ave., Northampton

You found Paradise.



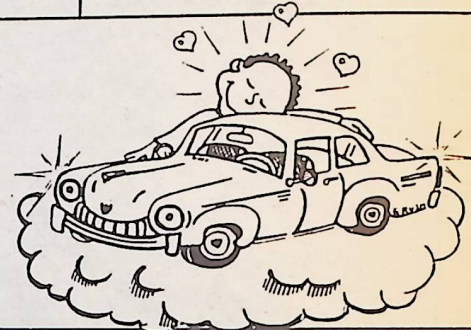
CALL
585-0414
FAX
585-0417



CAR
TROUBLES?

WE CAN HELP!

PELHAM AUTO
SERVICE
1315 FEDERAL ST. (RT.9)
BELCHERTOWN, MA
(413) 253-9302



BOOK MILL

Montague • MA
367-9206

45,000 used and
discount books

Cafe

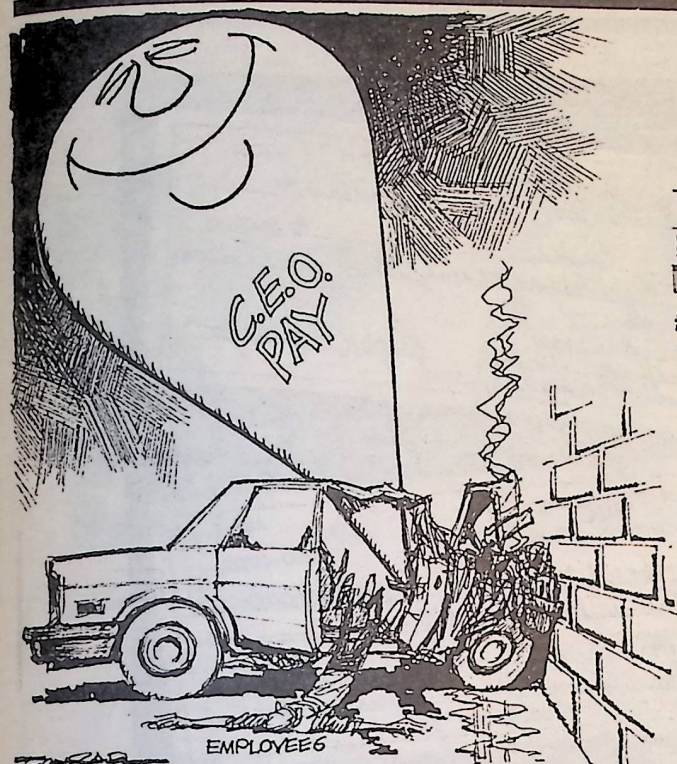
River views / deck
open 7 days 10-6



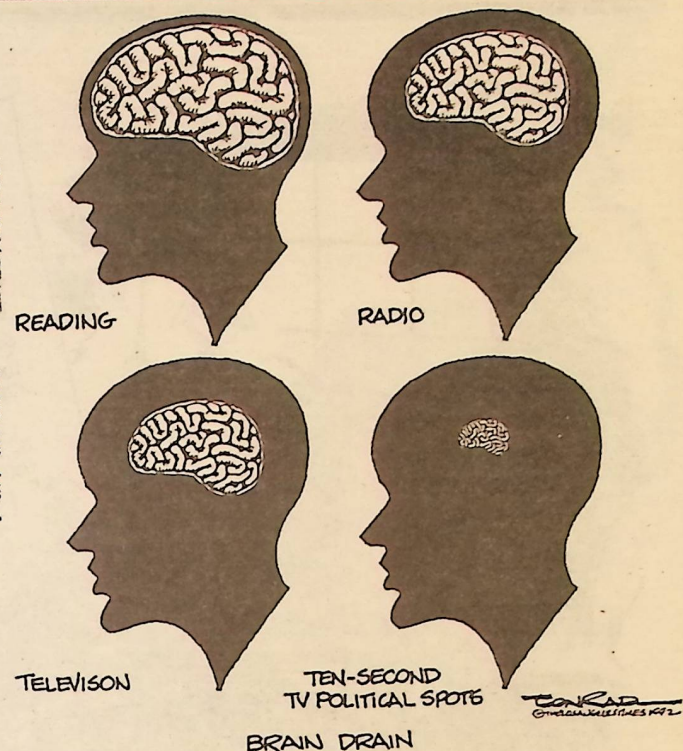
Fresh Ingredients,
at Refreshing Prices!

We offer lunch and dinner
daily, always made with the freshest
ingredients. We're also the only restaurant in the area to offer lagers
and ales brewed right on the premises, the best beer in the Northeast!

Northampton Brewery • Downtown Northampton
413 • 584 • 9903



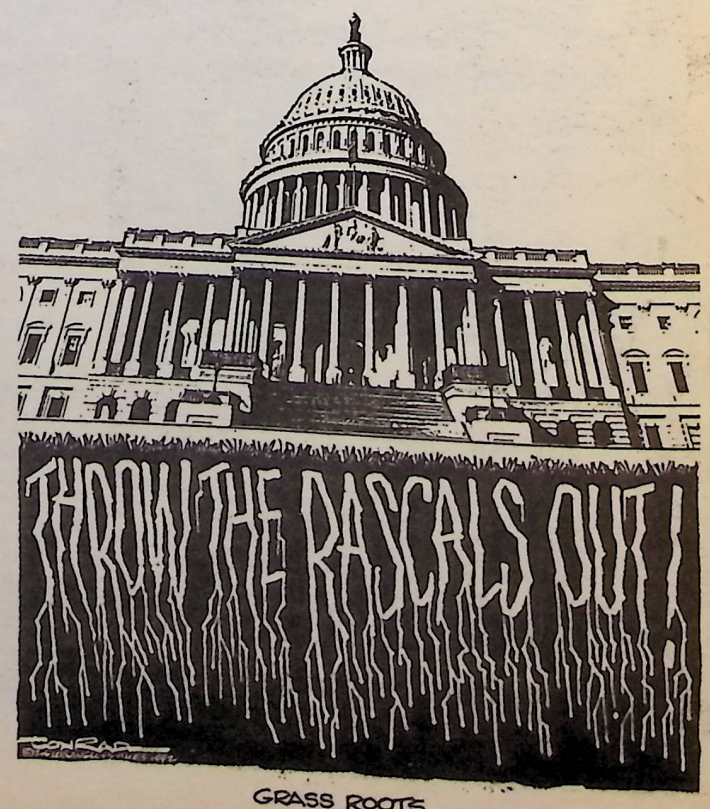
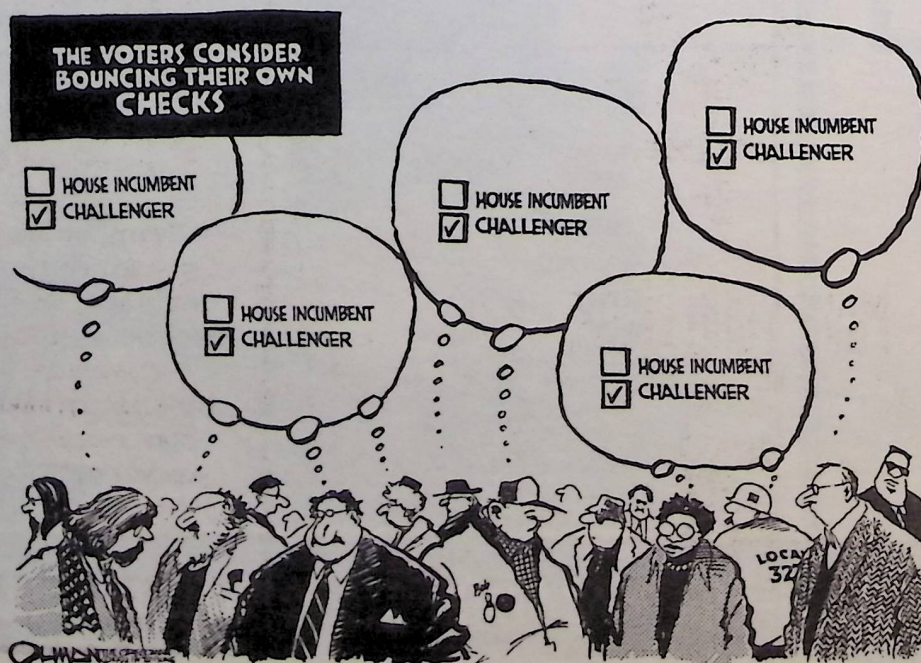
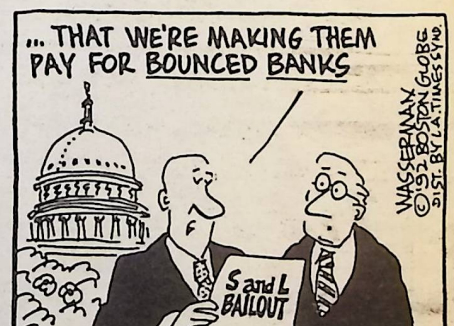
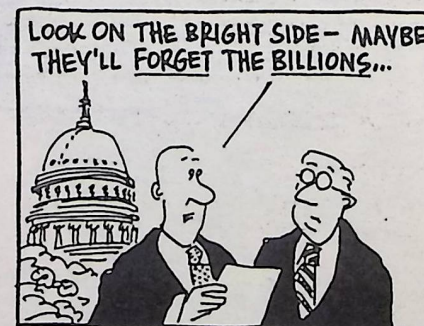
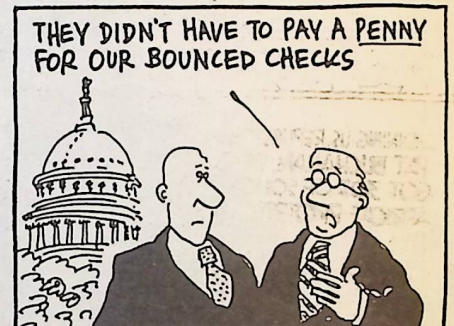
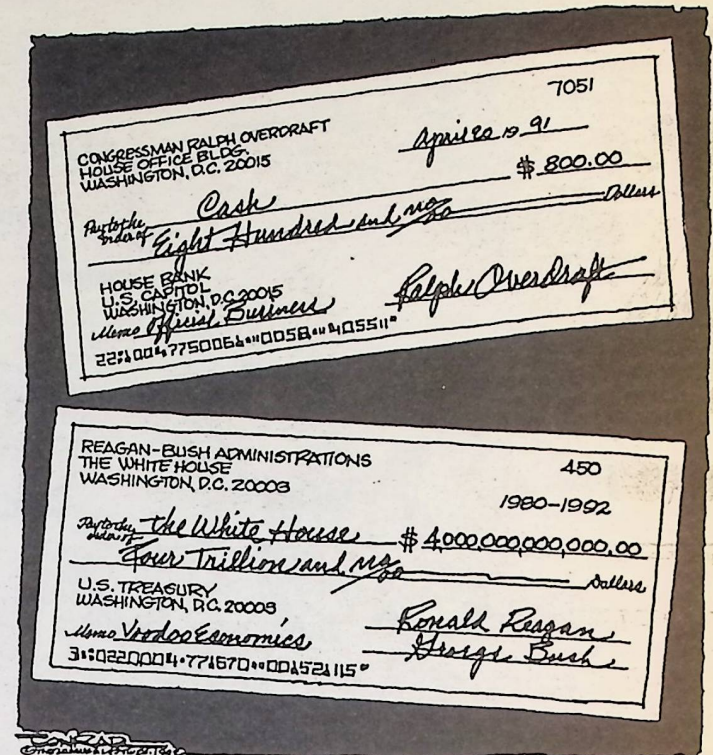
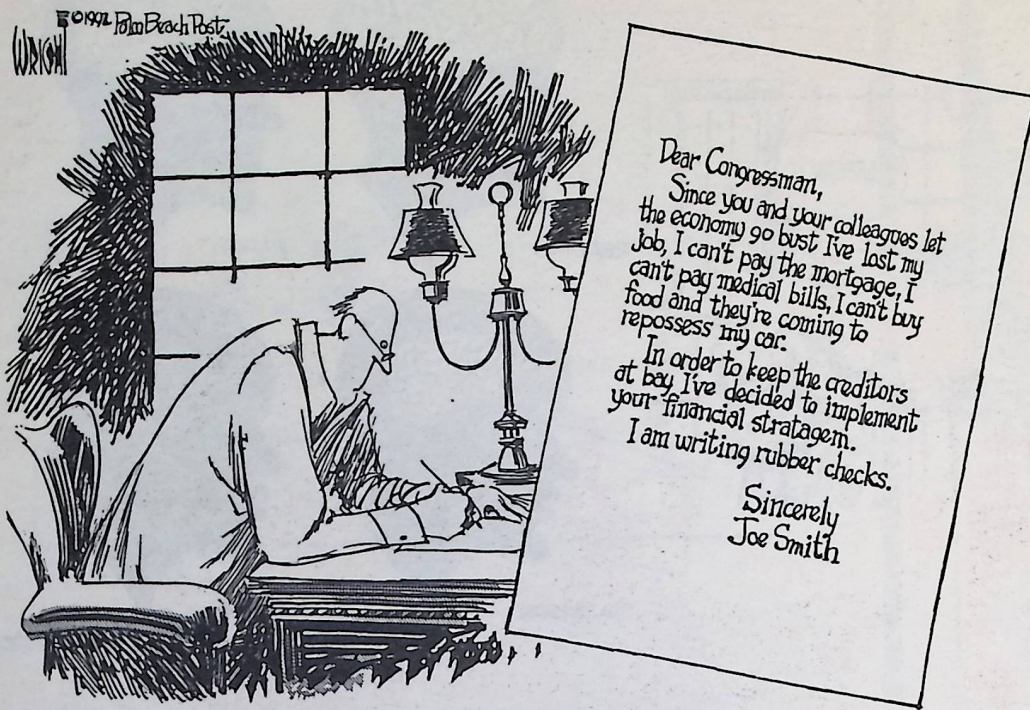
ALL U.S. CARS ARE EQUIPPED WITH AIR BAGS.



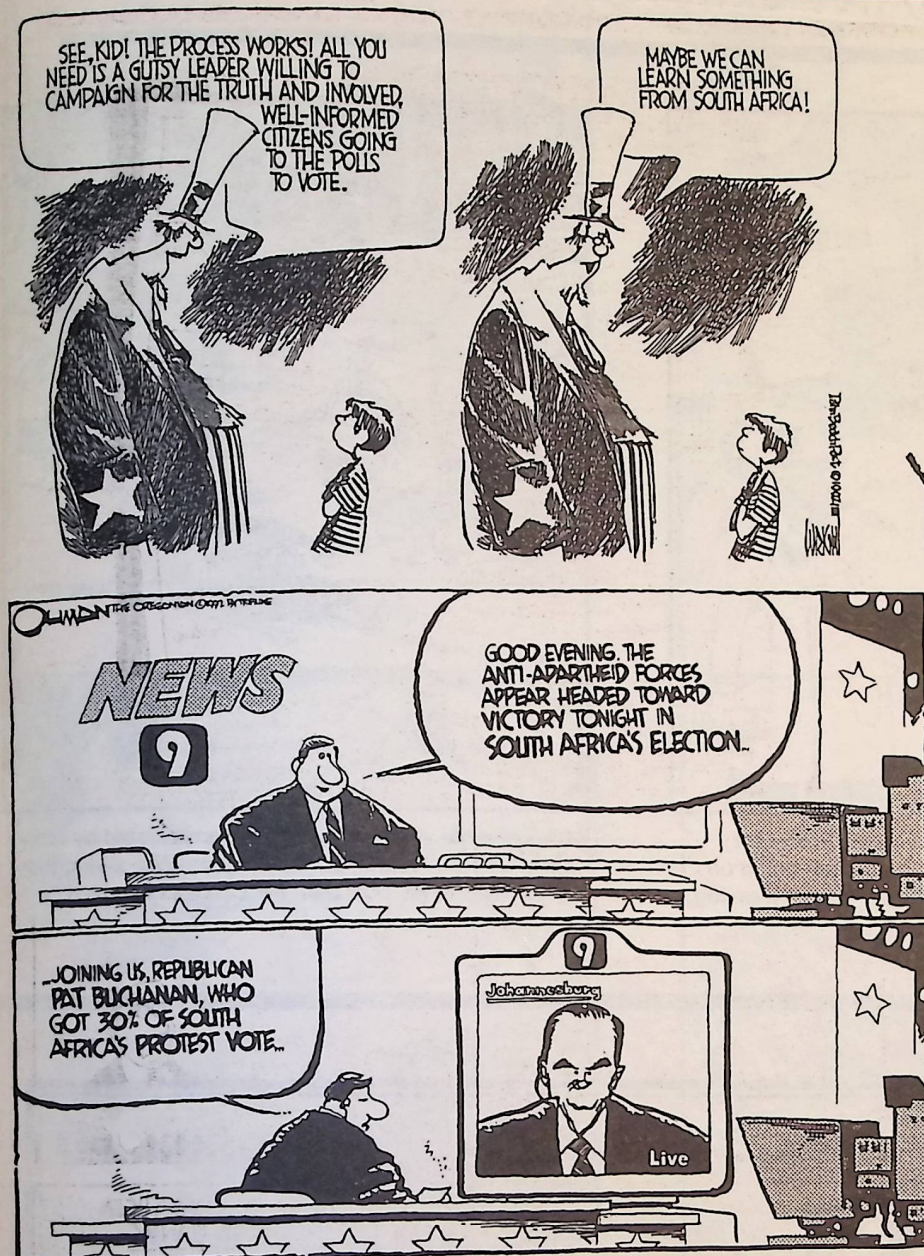
Open every night for dinner. WE DELIVER! 586-1468 • 12 Crafts Ave. Northampton, MA

Photo by Paul Schnaittacher

LIKE A RUBBER BALL



Way Down South In Jo-Burg



"FREE AT LAST! FREE AT LAST!"

© 1992 THE VALLEY COMIC NEWS

The Raw Carrot Juice Bar

NOW OPEN

Serving: freshly squeezed vegetable juices, smoothies, vegetarian and vegan sandwiches, soups, salads, and baked goods.

OPEN 10am - 7pm
downtown Amherst
next to The Mercantile

Delightfully Different!

MAKE YOUR MARK.

Women's Shoes, Clothing & Accessories
Zanna • 187 North Pleasant Street • Amherst
413.253.2503

Want your event to be really special?

Then hire the best:

THE GAMES MAN

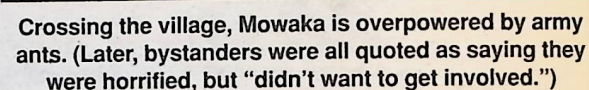
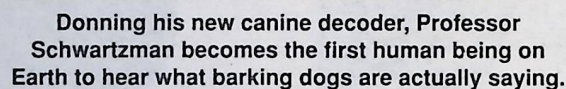
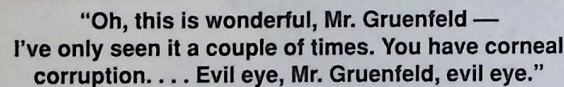
Unique entertainment for all events.

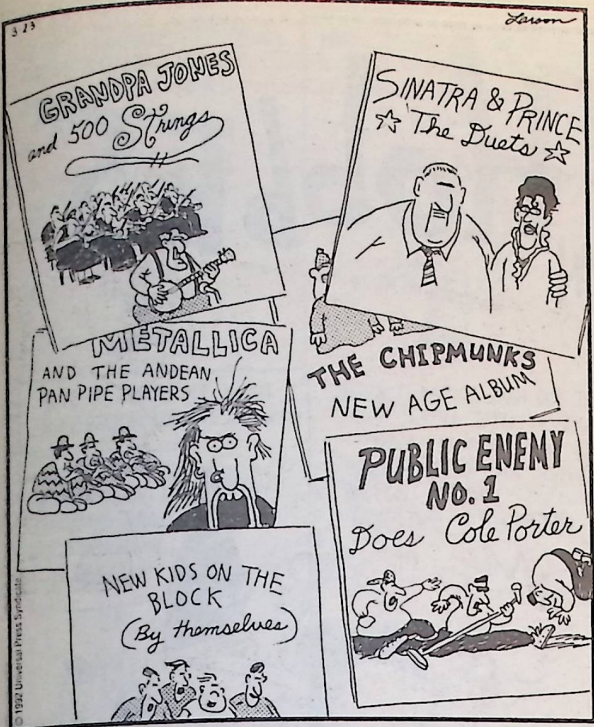
VOTED
"BEST
CHILDREN'S
ENTERTAINER"

Teens, adults, and grandparents love the Games Man, too! So, for professional performances that are playful, participatory, interactive, non-competitive, and guaranteed FUN or your money back, call today!

(413) 247-3322
BOX 463 HAYDENVILLE, MA 01039

By GARY LARSON

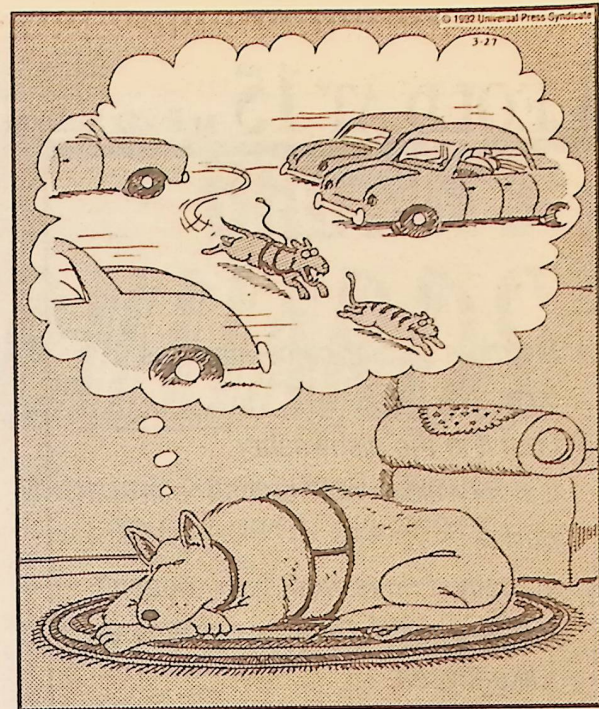




Albums to avoid



"It's 'Them,' gentlemen."



When seeing-eye dogs dream



Custer's recurrent nightmare



"Say, ain't you a stranger in this part?"



"Well, here we are, my little chickadee."



While vacationing in Africa, Pinocchio has his longtime wish to be a real boy suddenly and unexpectedly granted.



Clown therapy sessions



Rhino recitals

calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON

My mom's solar calculator was dirty.

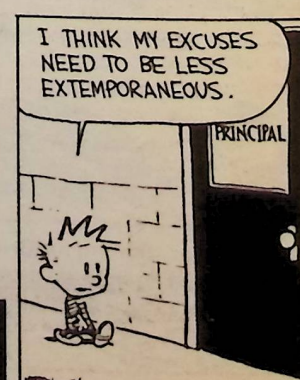
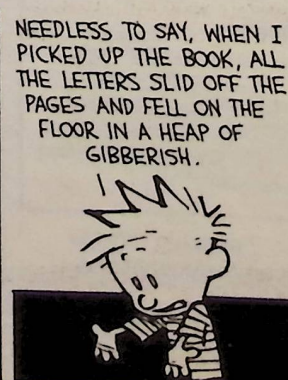
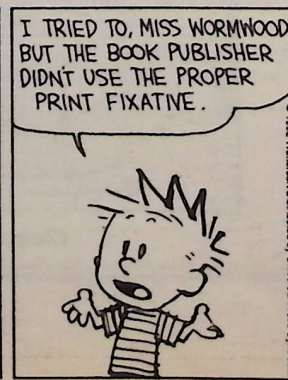
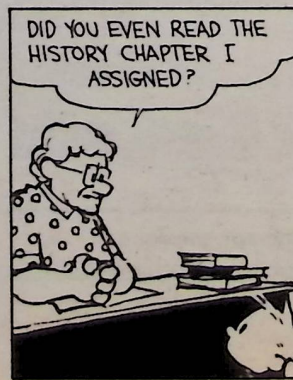
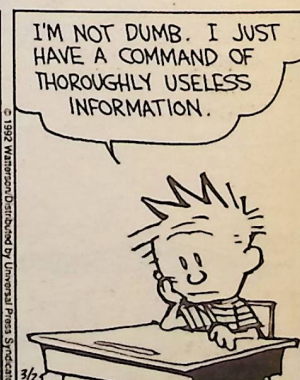
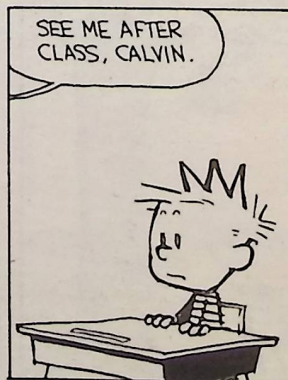
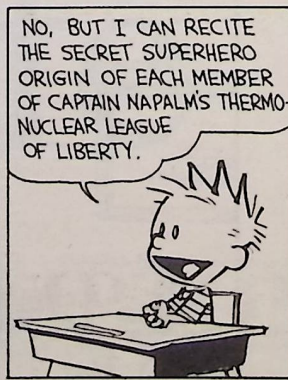
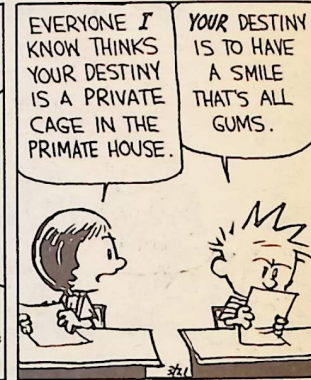
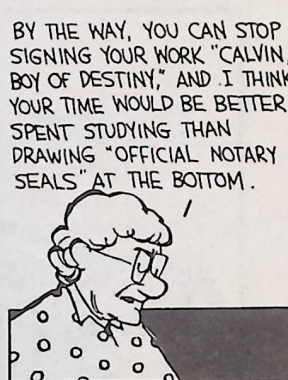
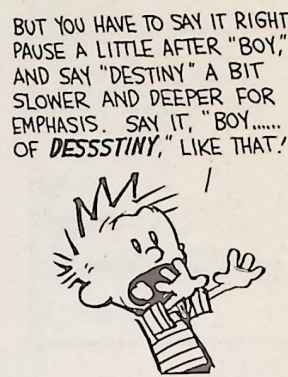
I put it in the dishwasher.

It's very clean now but it doesn't work.

Actually it does work, but it doesn't give the correct answers anymore ...like myself.

Mom was very upset. She called me all kinds of names some of which I liked.

So....it all worked out for the best.



COUNTY LIBRARY? REFERENCE
DESK, PLEASE. HELLO?
YES, I NEED A WORD
DEFINITION.



WELL, THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SPELL
IT AND I'M NOT ALLOWED
TO SAY IT.



COULD YOU JUST RATTLE
OFF ALL THE SWEAR WORDS
YOU KNOW, AND I'LL STOP
YOU WHEN... HELLO??



SEE IF I EVER VOTE
FOR THEIR TAX LEVIES.



© 1992 Watterson/Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

5/27 WOOD

I DON'T NEED
A BATH! I
CAN STAY CLEAN
WITHOUT ONE!



LOOK, I'LL LICK
MYSELF CLEAN!
THAT'S WHAT HOBBS
DOES! SEE, I'M
GETTING CLEAN
JUST LIKE HIM!



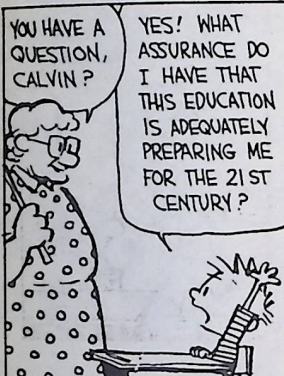
NICE
GOING.



© 1992 Watterson/Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

WOOD

YOU HAVE A
QUESTION,
CALVIN?



YES! WHAT
ASSURANCE DO
I HAVE THAT
THIS EDUCATION
IS ADEQUATELY
PREPARING ME
FOR THE 21ST
CENTURY?

AM I GETTING THE SKILLS
I'LL NEED TO EFFECTIVELY
COMPETE IN A TOUGH, GLOBAL
ECONOMY? I WANT A HIGH-
PAYING JOB WHEN I GET OUT
OF HERE! I WANT OPPORTUNITY!



© 1992 Watterson/Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

IN THAT CASE, YOUNG MAN,
I SUGGEST YOU START
WORKING HARDER. WHAT YOU
GET OUT OF SCHOOL DEPENDS
ON WHAT YOU PUT INTO IT.



THEN
FORGET IT.



WOOD

WHATCHA
DOING?



DAD WANTS TO
MOW THE LAWN,
SO HE'S MAKING
ME PICK UP
STICKS.

HE SAID I MIGHT LEARN
SOMETHING ABOUT THE
SATISFACTION THAT COMES
FROM A JOB
WELL DONE.



AND DID
YOU?



I SUPPOSE
SO.

I THINK HE'S TRYING TO
TELL ME THERE IS NONE.



© 1992 Watterson/Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

3/31

MY TIGER IS DEEP
IN SOMNOLENT SLEEP,
DREAMING OF CHASES
REMEMBERED!



HIS KEEN EYES ARE GLINTING.
HE DREAMS OF A SPRINTING
SAMBAR WHO'LL SOON BE
DISMEMBERED!



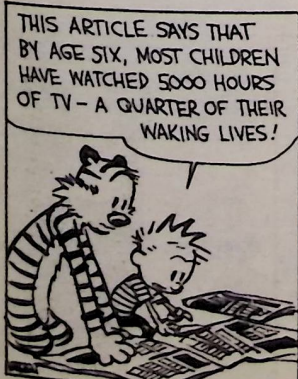
© 1992 Watterson/Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

HMMMMMMMM



4/1 WOOD

THIS ARTICLE SAYS THAT
BY AGE SIX, MOST CHILDREN
HAVE WATCHED 5000 HOURS
OF TV - A QUARTER OF THEIR
WAKING LIVES!



I HAVEN'T WATCHED THAT MUCH!
I THINK OF ALL THE GREAT SHOWS
I'VE MISSED! I'VE BEEN
DEPRIVED OF CULTURAL
REFERENCES! I'M IGNORANT
OF COUNTLESS AMAZING
PRODUCTS!



HURRY! IF I WATCH TV UNTIL
BEDTIME, I CAN GET IN A
FEW PRECIOUS EXTRA HOURS
AND CATCH UP A BIT!



4/2

REMEDIAL
VEGETATION.



HELP ME
LEARN THIS
THEME SONG,
OK?

BROWN'S BILLIARDS

Mountain Farms Mall • Route 9
1-800-564-0916 • 584-0916

Full-line of Billiard
and Game Room
Equipment

OPEN

11am to Midnight
til 1am Fri and Sat Nights

Opening Soon!!!
"Corner
Pocket
Deli"



Serving delicious lunches
and mouth watering snacks daily.

Full line of Beer and Wine
available

Arcade
Now Open

Biggest Pool Room in Western
Mass! Plenty of tables...Bring
all your friends, all the time.
We're open 7 days a week,
every week.

humor me

by Izzy Gesell

A recent *Vogue* magazine (or was it *Cosmo*?) pop-quiz asked the question, "What traits do you value most in another person?" Among women, a sense of humor was the number one answer. Among men, a sense of humor was the number TWO answer. (I don't remember what number one was for men but it makes a great fill-in-the-blank, don't you think?) Without doubt, a sense of humor has become a core value in American society.

Watching the presidential candidates debate, I realized the public and press are asking the wrong questions of the contenders. Since we Americans place such a high value on a sense of humor, it's imperative that we find out more about the candidates' sense of humor and what makes them laugh. "Hey, Bubba Clinton. Who is your favorite comedian? Hey, Beat-Around-The-Bush. Do you own Groucho glasses? Hey, Herr Buchanan. Have you ever laughed so hard you've wet your pants? Hey, California Guy. Which cartoons are hanging on your refrigerator?"

We need a president who can make us laugh while doing necessary but painful tasks such as reducing the deficit and dismantling the military-industrial complex. We need someone who can tell us the nasty truth without worrying about whether the public is offended. One of the main functions of humor in society is to transmit difficult-to-hear information in a socially acceptable way. We can take the tough stuff if we can reduce the hurt by laughing. George Bernard Shaw (or was CNN's Bernard Shaw?) once said, "If you ever want to tell someone the truth, better make him laugh or he'll kill you." As P. Shaw believes, "a lot of truth is said in jest."

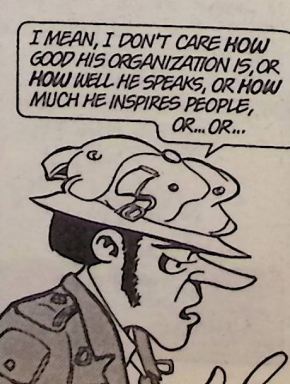
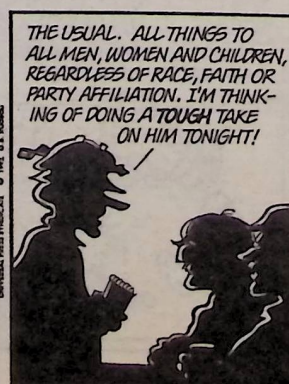
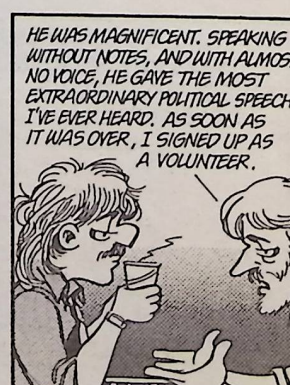
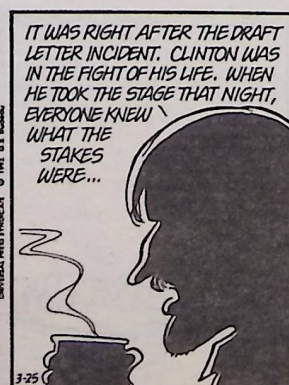
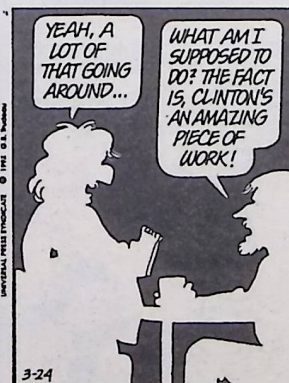
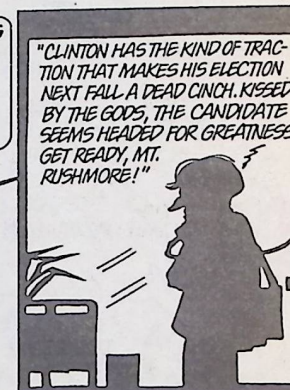
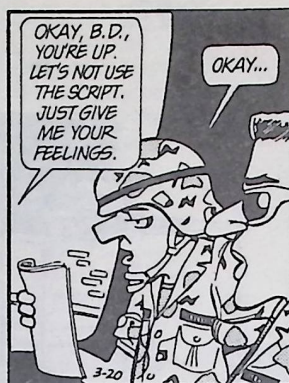
So why elect a man who is going to do whatever he has to in order to get along with the establishment? Let's elect someone who will thumb his nose at the powers that be. Someone who will throw a pie in the face of Congressional leaders. Someone who will stick his foot out when the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court walks by. Someone who will designate one day a year as Hawaiian Shirt Day in America. This country NEEDS an ADMITTED clown, prankster, comedian in the White House for the simple reason that being president is no laughing matter. We need a chief executive who can take the job seriously while he takes himself lightly.

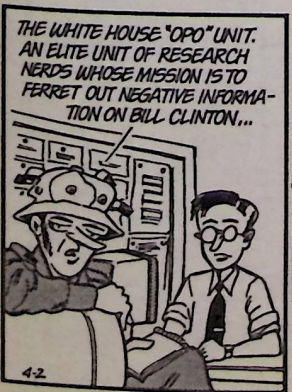
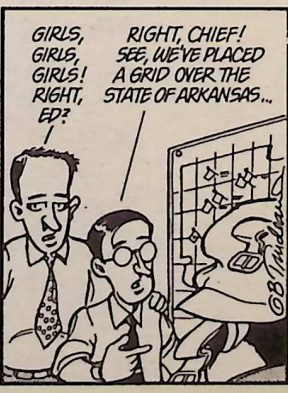
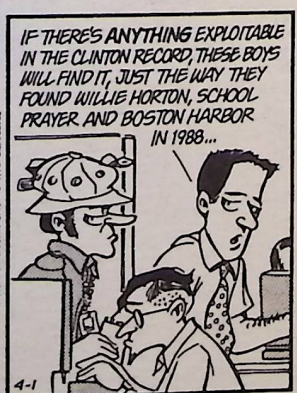
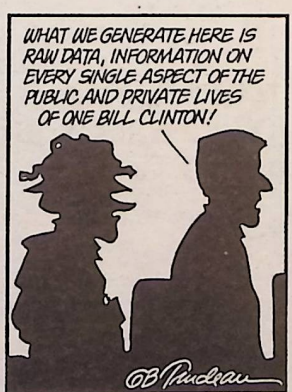
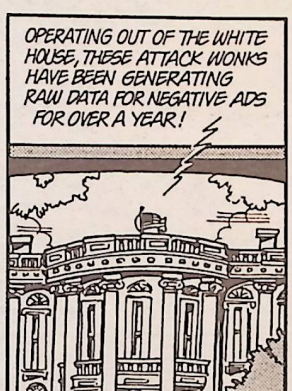
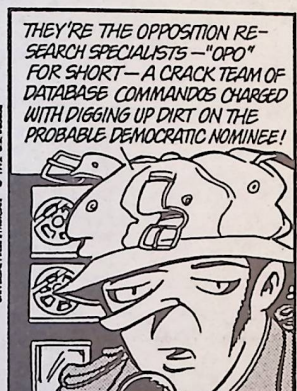
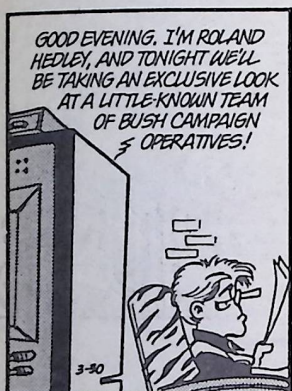
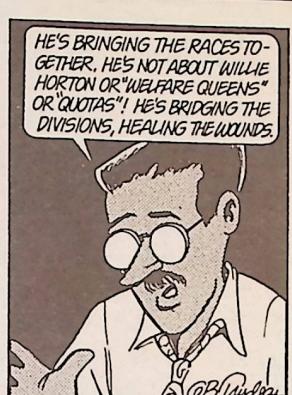
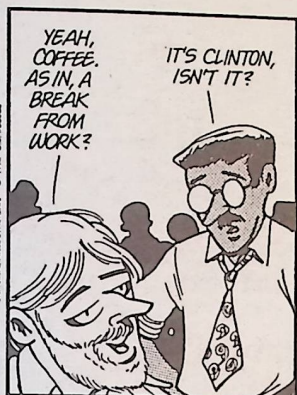
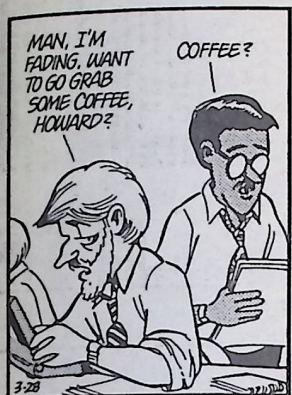
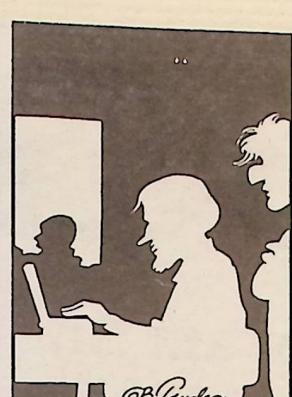
Instead of the usual bunch of self-serving, retread politicians, the next president should choose comedians for the key posts: Robin Williams for Secretary of State, Sandra Bernhard as Chief of Staff, Judy Tenuta for Secretary of the Treasury and Richard Lewis as Health & Human Services Secretary. In addition, the president should add a Secretary of Pleasure and Fun to the Cabinet. Congress should form a bi-partisan Joy Committee whose sole purpose is to attract and disseminate joyful activities around the country.

The best role model I can suggest for all this is Silvio Conte, the late Congressman from the First District in Massachusetts. He once had the courage to wear a rubber pig's nose onto the floor of Congress to emphasize his opposition to pork-barrel legislation. Sometimes we have to laugh just to keep from crying.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





KARAVAN IMPORTS



JUST ARRIVED SEED BEADS tiny, round, glass Czech beads AND JEWELRY PARTS

posts and post backs
French earring wires
pin backs
clasps
headpins
eyepins

STRINGING MATERIALS

silk cord
tigertail and crimp
beads

Nymo bead thread
Bead Cord thread
beading needles
rawhide
and hundreds of
ethnic beads

LOCATED
ABOVE PINOCCHIO'S
413 -585 -0815
122 MAIN STREET
NORTHAMPTON, MA 01060

BICYCLE WORLD TOO

69 South Pleasant St.
Amherst Ma. 01002
(413) 253-7722

Cranksets:

Suntour XC-LTD Cranksets Reg: \$119.95...now \$79.95
Suntour XC-PRO Cranksets reg. \$179.95...now \$119.95
Suntour XC-COMP Cranksets Reg: \$149.95...now \$109.95
XC-Comp Micro-drives In Stock

Bar Ends:

Onza	20% Off
Control Stix	20% Off
Dewey Bars	25% Off

Sale Items:

All 1991 Bikes	10% Off
All Computers	20-35% Off
All Road Clipless Pedals	15% Off
All Mountain Bike Bars & Stems	15% Off
All Mountain Bike Tires	10% Off
All Helmets	\$5. Off
All Cycling Tights	10% Off

Suspension Forks:

Manitou	374.99
Marzocchi XC-100	299.99
Marzocchi XC-300.	399.99
Rock Shox	279.99
Rock Shox Hag 20'	379.99
Scott (1 1/8")	199.99
Specialized Future Shock	349.99
Trek DS-2	229.99
Trek DS-3	329.99

All In Stock Now
Sale Applies To In Stock Items Only —
through April 14th*
Not Responsible For Misprints
Prices Subject To Change Without Notice